

**U.N. maintains sanctions on Iraq**

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council decided Tuesday to maintain international sanctions against Iraq after finding that Baghdad had yet to satisfy disarmament demands. Acting Chairman Gerardo Martinez Blanco said following discussions among the council's 15 members that current sanctions including a crippling oil embargo would remain in force. Members discussed a letter from the head of a U.N. special commission on Iraqi disarmament, Rolf Ekkeus, who gave a positive assessment of Baghdad's progress in revealing its biological programme. Baghdad for the first time admitted to having developed biological weapons after four years of denial but officials told Ekuus that these products were destroyed in October 1990. U.N. Ambassador to the United States Madeline Albright said Iraq lacked credibility in its approach to disarmament and said it still falls way short of fulfilling international demands. She said Iraq had yet to return goods taken from Kuwait, provide an account of missing Kuwaitis and end its repression of Kurdish and Shiite minorities in the north and south.

Grant, Riley story

(AFP) — British Grant and his wife Elizabeth have broken up after a known pro-

Mirror reporting British tabloids of Hurley and Grange in their home, and wonder if the couple's affair would surely split up in order.

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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## Clinton normalises ties with Vietnam

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton said Tuesday the United States will normalize relations with Vietnam, closing a painful chapter in U.S. history two decades after the end of the Vietnam War which bitterly divided the country. "Today I am announcing the normalization of the diplomatic relationship with Vietnam," Clinton said in a White House ceremony. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will travel to Vietnam in August to discuss ties between the two countries, Clinton said. The White House had been preparing the ground for weeks for the decision to bestow full diplomatic recognition on its communist former foe, a move opposed by some conservative lawmakers and families of soldiers missing in action in the Vietnam War. The controversial decision is particularly delicate for Clinton, who has taken political heat for avoiding the draft during the war and actively demonstrating against it while studying in London. The Clinton administration took the first step toward establishing ties with Vietnam when it lifted the U.S. embargo on Feb. 4, 1994, and it advanced the process this year by setting up a liaison office in Hanoi.

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AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1995, SAFAR 14, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

## Centrists seen to sweep municipal elections

### Voting to continue in Amman today

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Early returns from Jordan's first nationwide municipal elections showed late Tuesday that centrist and tribal figures were headed for victories in most constituencies.

Candidates fielded by the Islamic Action Front (IAF), which withdrew from Zarqa elections, won in Karak but lost in Amman.

The elections also saw Jordanians electing their first woman mayor.

The turnout was very low in certain areas of the Kingdom while high in others. Elections for certain districts in the Greater Amman Municipality and the Municipality of Ruseifeh were extended to Wednesday until the minimum of 51 per cent of voters turned out to vote.

Early results showed that centrist Hani Khrisat won the mayoralty in Salt, centrist Mohammad Smadi won in Ajloun and Iman Futeimati became the first woman mayor in Wahadneh, Ms. Futeimati, 27, won against

A scene from a voting centre in Tuesday's municipal elections (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Nuseirah.

Voting was also postponed in Ruseifeh. Elections will start at 7 a.m. on Wednesday and last until 5 p.m. Amman Governor Talaat Nawaysah

was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that ballot boxes will be preserved in their places and candidates' representatives have the right to stay in

the election centres.

In Zarqa and Ruseifeh, the IAF, the largest party in the Kingdom, withdrew from the elections.

It said in a statement issued

at 8 p.m. from their headquarters in Amman that the withdrawal was limited to Zarqa, but issued another

(Continued on page 7)

### Islamists quit Zarqa contest 'in protest'

By Beatrix Immenkamp and Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Municipal elections in Zarqa were marred by accusations and counter-accusations between the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and the government culminating in the IAF declaring that it was boycotting the elections in Jordan's second largest city.

Zarqa Governor Musleh Tarawneh countered that Islamists' withdrawal was illegal and that vote counting was scheduled to commence on time and the results announced accordingly.

The IAF candidate for mayor, head of the Islamic Bloc and former mayor Sheikh Yassir Omari, was demanding an independent investigation into the election process from the beginning of voter registration up to and including the elections.

"The government regrets continuous statements by IAF leaders in the past few weeks accusing the government of interfering in the municipal elections on behalf of

of the IAF's opponents," a government statement said.

The IAF knows very well that each step in the election process is governed by law and any contest is referred to the judiciary," it said.

In the Zarqa headquarters of the IAF, tempers were running high with Islamists claiming that thousands of soldiers clad in civilian clothes were brought into Zarqa to cast their votes in favour of the National Bloc headed by Mustafa Fayad.

Islamists said that the soldiers were not residents of Zarqa, but of cities as far away as Irbid and Karak. Eyewitnesses said they saw large numbers of apparently illiterate young men asking election officials to fill in their ballot slips with the names of the candidates of the National Bloc, portrayed by the IAF as being pro-government.

Other allegations put forward by leading IAF members assembled at the Zarqa headquarters, among them Lower House Deputy Bassam Emoush, Sheikh Omari and Mamdouh Muhaibin, a

(Continued on page 7)

## Israel, PLO near accord on civilian authority

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators neared an agreement Tuesday on transferring civilian authority to Palestinians in the West Bank, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiator said.

In seven hours of talks, the delegations began drafting an accord and expected to conclude a deal in hours. Jamil Tarifi, the chief PLO delegate, called the talks "very good and positive."

Israel and the PLO are ready to go to an army base near Florence, Italy, for those once they get the go-ahead from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, PLO officials said.

A PLO official who declined to be identified said the two sides were ready to leave on Friday for the talks at the site away from the spotlight in an effort to reach a July 25 deadline for an accord.

Palestinian peacemaker Ahmad Qourieh, in what way been an attempt to keep reporters off the negotiations trail, declined even to confirm that Italy would host the talks.

"There are no decisions on anything as of yet," Mr. Qourieh told Israel Radio.

On Monday night, Mr. Ross said Israel and the PLO were racing to seal a peace deal to widen Palestinian self-rule beyond Gaza and Jericho to more of the West Bank.

Italy said on Monday it would hold the talks, offering a new venue at a secret location away from the media spotlight. Just as Norway hosted the clandestine meetings in Oslo which led to the peace accords.

It was unclear when a deci-

## King: Jordan seeks peace that will transform lives

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday Jordan was seeking a warm peace between the peoples of the region and to have this peace translated into projects which will positively change the lives of people, particularly the Palestinian people.

In a lecture delivered at the Royal Defence Studies College in London, King Hussein said the Middle East had suffered a lot because of the instability which prevailed for long as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the region's strategic location and natural resources as well as the

success of peace between them in a national conference.

The King said for lasting peace in the Middle East has to be just and balanced, emphasising that this was met by the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which restored to Jordan its full territorial and water rights.

Noting that Jordan





Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday watches a Girl Guide perform one of the many physical activities planned by the Girl Guides Association for young girls from several Arab countries (Petra photo)

## Princess Basma opens 10th Girl Guides camp

JERASH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday opened the 10th Girl Guides scouting camp for youth from Arab countries and observed segments of its activities.

A total of 250 Girl Guides are taking part in the activities of the camp at the Dibbin National Park near Jerash.

Organised by the Ministry

of Education, the camp's activities this year involve Girl Guides from Jordan, Iraq, Sudan and Palestine. The Princess toured the camp and visited an exhibition displaying Girl Guides handicrafts and posters depicting the scout movement and its activities, and observed workshops on vocational training.

Princess Basma listened to

an address by Abla Ahu Nowar, director of the Girl Guides' Department at the Ministry of Education. In welcoming Princess Basma, who is President of the Jordanian Scouts Association, Mrs. Ahu Nowar thanked her for patronising the event and for her continued support towards the scouts movement in the Kingdom.

Girl Guides representing

Palestine, Iraq, and Sudan delivered speeches that demonstrated appreciation of Jordan for making the camp adventure possible and for providing it with facilities for its activities.

Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat and senior ministry officials attended the opening ceremony.

## Children's Congress to address environmental, future concerns

AMMAN (I.T.) — The 15th Arab Children's Congress is to open at the Roman Amphitheatre in Amman on July 18 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, according to an announcement by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

The opening ceremony for the six-day annual event will include artistic performances by the brass bands of the Jordan Armed Forces as well as the participation of a large number of Jordanian children in folkloric dance and national songs, according to the announcement.

In this year's event children from Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Iraq and Egypt will

take part, said the announcement.

The children will participate in workshops dealing with the scarcity of water, population growth, pollution and the protection of the environment, as well as forge concepts of a better and safer future, said the announcement.

They are also scheduled to visit historical and archaeological sites, including the ancient city of Petra and Um Qais in the north of Jordan; attend the opening of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts and visit the Haya Arts Centre, said the statement.

The NHF said that the congress seeks to encourage the concept of Arab children belonging to one nation, one culture, and to enable the children to learn more about Jordan, its people and history.

The children's schedule also includes visits to Jordanian families to learn

about their traditions and culture, according to the statement.

During the six-day event the NHF will be organising stamp display and national costumes exhibitions from the participating countries.

Initiated by Queen Noor in 1980, the Arab Children's Congress aims at bringing together Arab children from various parts of the region to participate in a programme of cultural activities, discussions and other functions.

Temperatures during the night are expected to drop to 15°C, the sources added.

Winds will be moderate, with a rise in humidity, except in the eastern desert where conditions will be dusty, said meteorologists.

On Thursday temperatures could rise again slightly, but they will remain below the normal summer average.

## Summer showers expected today

Amman (Petra) — Scattered showers can be expected today in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom, according to Meteorology Department sources.

The department also forecast a drop in temperatures to 28°C and 26°C in the eastern and western heights respectively.

Temperatures during the night are expected to drop to 15°C, the sources added.

Winds will be moderate, with a rise in humidity, except in the eastern desert where conditions will be dusty, said meteorologists.

On Thursday temperatures could rise again slightly, but they will remain below the normal summer average.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILMS

- "The Birds," at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.
- "The Civil War: Simply Murder, 1863," at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

### DIALOGUE, LECTURES

- Dialogue with Jordanian artist Adnan Yahyah, Dr. Ibrahim Najjar and art critic Mohammad Abu Zureik at Darat Al Funun, at 6:00 p.m.
- Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Architecture of Hebron," by Dr. Farouk Yaghmour at Darat Al Funun at 8:00 p.m.
- Lecture in Arabic entitled, "Where do threats to Gulf security come from?" by Dr. Yousef Hassan at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Works by Khdeir Shukraji at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- Paintings by Muhammed Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis.
- Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun Jabal Weibdeh.
- Paintings by Bernadette Gerges and Rita Gerges entitled "Lebanon Tomorrow," at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Arts, Garden Street.
- Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.
- Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Kaabneh leaves for official visit to France

Amman (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Abdul Hafez Marei Kaabneh Tuesday left on a several-day visit to France to attend the French republic's national celebrations of Bastille Day. General Kaabneh was seen off upon departure by the Chief of Staff for Land Forces.

#### House discusses 1993 draft labour law

Amman (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament today continues discussions on the 1993 draft labour law. The House has so far discussed and approved 97 out of the 145 articles of the draft law. The House will also refer several proposals by deputies on service-related issues to its Administrative Committee.

#### New tomato industry to start up in Mafrag

Amman (Petra) — A new tomato paste factory has been formed in Mafrag. The factory, which will become operational on Saturday July 15, will be ready to purchase tomatoes from farmers as of that date.

## Visiting PNA members observe municipal election process

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuherat received at his office Tuesday a three-member delegation representing the Palestine National Authority (PNA) to discuss prospects of cooperation in municipal affairs between the two sides.

Mr. Thuherat said that the delegation, whose members are preparing for elections in the self-rule areas, are here on a visit to examine arrangements for municipal elections held in Jordan and to benefit from the Jordanian experience in this field.

The minister told the delegation that Jordan will place its expertise and experience at the disposal of the PNA and welcomes officials to study the local government system in Jordan to familiarise themselves with ways of organising municipal elections.

The PNA team, which is led by Adnan Jaffal, director of the PNA's legal department, praised the special relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian people and complimented the Jordanian electoral system.

He said that Jordan, which has acquired valuable experience in municipal affairs and elections, can be of great benefit to the Palestinians in their efforts to organise elections of their own.



Women in the Hai Nazzal district of Amman Tuesday turn out to vote in Jordan's first nation-wide municipal elections (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

The PNA official said that his team was impressed with the preparations made for the municipal elections here, a factor which reflects the success of the democratic

process in the Kingdom, he said

The Palestinian delegation toured several voting centres while the municipal elec-

tions were in progress Tuesday and visited the main operations room at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to observe procedures.

## Bay'at Al Imam group to face trial at State Security Court

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 13 people will be referred to the State Security Court to be formally charged with plotting terrorist attacks in Jordan in the latest case of attempted sabotage in Jordan, legal sources said Tuesday.

In addition to the 13, another five or six people will be sent to the civil court for trial for attempted attacks, according to the sources.

The group, known as Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader), was hatched before it could actually carry out any attacks, said the sources.

Weapons and explosives were believed to have been found with the group. The charge sheet against them includes illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive material with the purpose of using it in an illegal

judiciary.

Among the others are two Jordanians accused of shooting and wounding a French diplomat in March.

Others include members of two groups who were apprehended only themselves to be the "true followers" of the Islamic faith and did not attend mosque "prayers" or schools because they rejected the entire system, according to the sources.

Weapons and explosives were believed to have been found with the group. The charge sheet against them includes illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive material with the purpose of using it in an illegal

attack.

According to the sources, the group had "sub-groups" which did not know of each other's existence.

The sources said those

under custody now include Asam Mohammad Daher, alias Abu Mohammad Al Maqdesi, believed to be the leader of the group.

Bay'at Al Imam followers believed only themselves to be the "true followers" of the Islamic faith and did not attend mosque "prayers" or schools because they rejected the entire system, according to the sources.

Salem Abdullah and Ahmad Qassem, both 22, the two accused in the Feb. 24 attack on Gil Heine, a second secretary at the French embassy, will be charged with attempted murder, plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing illegal arms and explosives.

No immediate details was available on whether the two assailants belonged to any organised group or what motivated them to stage the attack.

According to the sources, the group had "sub-groups" which did not know of each other's existence.

The sources said those

who opposed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October and resented Israeli visiting Jordan.

It was one of the rare attacks on foreigners in Jordan and security sources described it as isolated incident.

Also pending are charges against at least six other people, all of them also suspected of plotting subversion in Jordan.

Some of them are members of a group called "Islamic Revival," which, according to reports in the Israeli press, was behind a recent infiltration across the northern Jordanian-Israeli borders.

Two of the infiltrators were shot dead and the third surrendered, Israeli reports said. There has no Jordanian confirmation of the Israeli reports.

## Jordan outlines position on continued support to refugees

CAIRO (Petra) — Director General of the Palestine Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ibrahim Tarshishi, Monday said that recent contacts with United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) donor nations should ensure the sufficiency of funds for the agency's services in its field operations.

Mr. Tarshishi was speaking at a conference of supervisors of Palestinian affairs in Arab countries in Cairo. Delegates to the conference represent Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and The Arab League, as well as Jordan.

UNRWA Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen

warned during a visit to Jordan last May that the agency would be forced to cut some of its services if it did not receive funds to plug the \$16 million gap in its budget for 1995.

Mr. Tarshishi was one of senior Jordanian officials who met Mr. Turkmen during his May visit and discussed the agency's services to nearly 1.2 million registered Palestinian refugees living in Jordan.

He said that since the 1948 war Jordan has been doing its best to help the refugee. The Kingdom is involved in discussions by the multilateral working group on refugees and the four-party

meetings grouping Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Egypt, in a bid to contribute to a just solution to the refugee problem.

The conference, which is due to end Thursday, is set to discuss several topics dealing with UNRWA's financial situation, services to the refugees, the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's measures to confiscate Arab land, the economic and social conditions of Arab people under occupation, Jewish immigration, Israel's seizure of water resources, the situation in Jerusalem and Israel's drive to judaise the city.

## HASHD party to discuss Zibri resignation

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — The resignation of Tayseer Zibri from the Jordan People's Democratic party (HASHD) this week has not been approved yet by the party's political bureau, but Mr. Zibri has said that his decision to resign is final.

In a statement issued on Monday and signed by its political bureau, the party told the Jordan Times that his decision this time was irreversible.

He said he made several attempts in the past to mend differences but all those attempts ended in failure.

The main point of disagreement, he said, was the

lack of independence of the Jordan-based party HASHD from its mother party, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), led by Nayef Hawatmeh and based in Syria.

Mr. Zibri, who had resigned several times in the past from the party's leadership, told the Jordan Times that his decision this time was irreversible.

According to Mr. Zibri, several promises have been made by the DFPL in Syria to guarantee the full independence of the Jordanian party but none have been fulfilled.

"We've reached a dead-

lock," he said. "we cannot possibly mobilise the public to overthrow Palestinian President Yasser Arafat while we have sales tax laws and other crucial issues to fight for here."

"There has to be some sort of independence, and that is what we were fighting for, especially since the legalisation of political parties in 1992," he said. "We have to look at Jordan from a detached perspective."

Mr. Zibri said he will continue to be active in political life, but not through HASHD.

## Babies said among 65 dead in Sri Lanka church bomb

COLOMBO (R) — Thirteen babies were among the 65 dead found under the rubble of a Catholic Church bombed by the Sri Lankan Air Force, an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) official said Tuesday.

At least one bomb hit St. Peter's Church at Naval, north of the town of Jaffna during a major military operation against Tamil Tiger rebels, ICRC field coordinator Dominique Henry told Reuters.

Military spokesman Captain Tilak Dunuwila denied the air force had bombed the church.

"The air force is saying they haven't bombed that area. The air force only provides close air support, immediately in front of our troops," he said.

Rebel radio said the church was hit by nine bombs Sunday, the day the armed forces launched "Operation Leap Forward" against the stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Both the ICRC, which operates in the peninsula, and the Tigers said more than 100 people were injured.

**Simpson cried over ex-wife's murder — daughter**

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson's daughter told the jury Monday in the star athlete's double murder trial how her father was distraught and crying after being told that his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, had been killed.

Arnelle Simpson, Simpson's 26-year-old daughter from his first marriage, was the first witness to take the stand as defense lawyers began their phase of the trial, in which Simpson has pleaded not guilty to the stabbing deaths of Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman.

She said that on the morning after the June 12, 1994, murders, detectives came to Simpson's mansion, where she was living, and told her about the murders.

She then called Simpson's secretary, Kathy Randa, who said Simpson was in Chicago. She said police informed her father by telephone of his ex-wife's death and she then spoke to him.

"He asked me what was going on. I said, 'Dad, Nicole is dead. She's not here with us anymore.'" Arnelle Simpson said.

She said Simpson called back a short time later. "He was very upset. He was crying. I've never heard him sound like that before," she said.

Simpson's mother, Eunice Simpson, told how she flew to Los Angeles from her home in San Francisco to be with her son on learning of Nicole Simpson's death.

She said she sat with Simpson on his couch, holding hands. "We were gripping each other very tightly. He held my hands all during the time. He was very upset, shocked. We sat holding hands from the time I arrived there until he decided to go to bed," Eunice Simpson said.

Defence Attorneys Johnnie Cochran and Robert Shapiro, through their questions to the witnesses, sought to show the jury that Simpson's reaction to the news of Nicole Simpson's death was not the reaction of a murderer, but of someone grieving for a loved one.

Prosecutors have painted a picture of Simpson as a jealous, possessive wife beater who killed Nicole as the ultimate form of control over her. Goldman was at the wrong place at the wrong time, they said.

Arnelle Simpson said she saw her father for the first time after his return from Chicago at about 5:30 p.m. -DT (0040 GMT) on June 13. "He was numb, he was quiet, just sitting on the couch, holding my grandmother's (Simpson's mother Eunice) hand," she said.

Simpson's defence team also tried to cast doubt on the testimony of prosecution witness Ron Shipp, a friend of Simpson's who said Simpson had told him he had dreamed about killing Nicole Simpson.

The military had dropped leaflets warning civilians to seek refuge in temples and churches to minimise the chance of death or injury in air strikes.

"This is really a violation of humanitarian law if a civilian area has been deliberately targeted," Mr. Henry said, adding that he had no information on whether the attack was deliberate or an accident.

A Jaffna resident contacted by Reuters said St. Peter's stood in a populated area and had a large daily congregation to ask her armed forces not to bomb churches, temples, schools and other public places. Tiger radio said.

It said the church was full of "displaced persons" at the time of the attack.

Tiger radio said the church bombing had brought the casualty toll to 150 civilians killed and hundreds wounded in the armed forces current Operation Leap Forward offensive against the LTTE.

Mr. Henry agreed that at least 150 civilians had been killed. "Most of the people killed have been civilians," he said.

Tiger radio said Tuesday 63 children had been killed, according to statistics from the main Jaffna Hospital.

Two Sri Lankan army battalions resumed their advance into the Jaffna peninsula at dawn Tuesday. "Troops resumed the advance at 6:30 a.m. (0100 GMT), Capt. Dunuwila said. "Fighting is going on but we have no details yet."

Tiger radio said 13 naval warships had arrived at the northern Kankesanturai Harbour, escorted by helicopters and gunboats.

Five soldiers have been killed and 71 wounded since Sunday when four infantry brigades hacked by tanks, artillery and air support thrust into rebel defences. Capt. Dunuwila said.

Troops repulsed a rebel attack on the army's flank around 4:00 a.m. (2230 GMT) Tuesday, the military spokesman said. Nine soldiers were wounded in the attack, he added.

Operation Leap Forward is aimed at wresting control of Jaffna from the Tigers, the statement said.

are fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east in a war which has killed more than 50,000 people since 1983.

President Kumaratunga ordered the military Tuesday to investigate reports the air force bombed the packed Catholic Church in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Mrs. Kumaratunga telephoned the Archbishop of Colombo, Nicholas Marcus Fernando, to express her concern and ask whether the archbishop had any "authentic" information on the reports, the presidential secretariat said in a statement.

Mrs. Kumaratunga told the archbishop that, according to military reports, fighting was going on about three kilometres northwest of Naval and it was "unlikely any action by the security forces would have affected the church or its environs."

The president also assured the archbishop that the on-going military operation was clearly aimed at liberating the people of Jaffna and accordingly the military had been given strict instructions to ensure maximum possible safety of the civilian population," the statement said.

## Karachi insurgents say they will push for own province if talks fail

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) —

Armed militants in the southern city of Karachi say they will push for their own ethnic province if peace talks with the government fail, an English-language newspaper reported Tuesday.

Ajmal Dehlvi, chief negotiator of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, said his group would not compromise on basic demands it plans to put forward in negotiations scheduled to begin here late Tuesday, according to the news.

The MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking migrants who moved to Pakistan when India was divided in 1947, has been locked in an armed rebellion against the government in Karachi, capital of southern Sind province and Pakistan's financial centre.

The MQM's basic demands call for a more equal share of power and opportunities for the Mohajirs, or migrants, who make up about 70 per cent of Karachi's 12 million population.

"Should the talks fail, a province would be demanded, making Sind's division inevitable," Mr. Dehlvi told the newspaper.

More than 3,000 people have been killed this year in ethnic and political violence in the nation's largest city.



Activists of Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) carry the coffin of their slain leader Aslam Subzwari for burial in central district of strife-torn city of Karachi. Thousands of MQM supporters participated in Subzwari's funeral ceremony, who was killed in police custody. The MQM decided to call off its strike as a gesture of goodwill for the parties with the government (AFP photo)

'I did a bad thing,' Grant says

LOS ANGELES (AP) — British actor Hugh Grant said Monday that despite his arrest for lewd conduct with a prostitute, he and live-in model-actress Elizabeth Hurley would "try and work it out." The raffish 34-year-old actor whose character humbled his way into love in the box-office hit *Four Weddings And A Funeral*, was arrested here June 27 after what police said was a sex act with a known prostitute in his white BMW. In his first television appearance since the arrest, NBC's *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno's first question to Grant was "What were you thinking?"

"It's not easy, um..."

The thing is that um, people give me tonnes of ideas on this one," Grant mumbled and demurred, very much in his sheepish *Four Weddings* character's style. "I keep reading new psychological theories, and stuff like that —

I was under pressure, I was tired, I was lonely, I fell down the stairs when I was a child," he said, but "I think it would be bollocks, really to hide behind that... I did a bad thing, there you have it."

Asked about his reaction to the public interest in the story, Grant said "I can see where if I hadn't been the person who perpetrated this whole thing, I suppose I would be enjoying it as much as anyone else. But it's pretty miserable on the other side of the equation."

Grant left London for Los Angeles to promote his new film *Nine Months* late Sunday after spending the weekend with Hurley, 29, an Estee Lauder cosmetics spokeswoman.

"I've done an abominable thing, and she's been amazing about it," Grant said. "Contrary to what I read in the paper today, she's been very supportive, and we are going to try and work it out. Time is of the essence."

When Leno asked Grant why he agreed to appear on the *Tonight Show* amid the publicity frenzy over his *Sunset Strip* scandal, Grant said "I've never been on to blow my own trumpet, as they say..."

The audience exploded in laughter before Grant continued "...This is a funny film." Fans cheered the actor outside the NBC studio, with one woman waving a sign that read "I would have paid you, Hugh."

## Italy issues arrest warrant for Craxi

MILAN (R) — An Italian court Tuesday issued an arrest warrant on corruption charges for former Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who has been living in exile in Tunisia, judicial sources said.

Mr. Craxi, who was prime minister from 1984-87 at the head of two consecutive governments, has denied the

charges against him. The arrest warrant for Mr. Craxi, who is involved in 20 separate graft investigations, was connected with a probe of irregularities surrounding the building of Milan's underground.

The ex-premier, one of the most illustrious casualties of Italy's graft probes, was sentenced to eight and a half

## U.S. recognition of Taiwan is a threat to world peace, China says

BEIJING (AFP) — Any attempt by the United States to officially recognise Taiwan would have "serious consequences" not just for Sino-U.S. ties but also for world peace, China's Foreign Ministry warned Tuesday.

The increase in the number of U.S. states — there are now 37 — with capital punishment legislation on their books has also swayed opinions north of the border, they said.

The warning came after House Speaker Newt Gingrich, angered by China's recent arrest of U.S. citizen and human rights activist Harry Wu, called Monday for Washington to formally recognise Taiwan as a free country.

"We would like to caution U.S. politicians to take a long, strategic perspective in their handling of the Taiwan question," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told reporters here.

Beijing views Taiwan as a renegade province and has never renounced the possibility of invasion if the Nationalist island tries to declare independence.

If the Taiwan issue is mishandled, Mr. Shen warned of a "turbulent situation" that would have "serious consequences for Sino-U.S. relations and to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large."

If any country attempts to split China, the Chinese people will never allow it, nor will they sit idle and watch this happen," he added.

The formal arrest of Mr. Wu last week on espionage charges has served to put even greater strain on Sino-U.S. ties, which took a major

## U.S. urges immediate release of Chinese-American

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

The State Department Monday called for the immediate release of a U.S. human rights activist arrested by Chinese police last month on espionage-related charges and a senior lawmaker warned of grave consequences if he were not freed.

Under French law, Mr. Juppe's action would have been improper only if he had a "personal interest" in it, Mr. Cotte said in a letter to an ad hoc taxpayer organisation that had requested a formal investigation.

Attorney Armand Montebourg said the group disagreed with Mr. Cotte and would attempt to pursue the case in the courts on its own.

Meanwhile, the daily, *Libération*, reported Tuesday that France's Republican Party, a member of the governing coalition, is co-owner of a Panama-registered company that received funds from a financier suspected of money-laundering.

The paper, without quoting any sources, said Geneva Judge Philippe Thelin has discovered that the party became co-owner in October 1994 of Spalding Investment, a Panama company.

Spalding had received 15 million francs (\$3.7 million) from Alain Cellier, a close friend of Gerard Longuet, who was then president of the Republican Party. Mr. Cellier is being investigated for money-laundering.

Legal experts agreed Mr. Juppe had violated no law by taking advantage of the availability of the city-owned flats. Leslie Mahaffy, 14, was killed in June 1991 and dismembered with a power saw.

His release would be "in the best interests of the United States and China," Mr. Burns said, adding that it was up to China to demonstrate its commitment to good ties with the United States.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms Monday issued a statement warning: "Chinese leaders should know, in no uncertain terms, that if they refuse to release Harry Wu, or harm him in any way, the consequences for China will be very grave."

The no-confidence motion, if ratified, would be a slap in the face for Mr. Patten and the British establishment but has no constitutional implications. Mr. Patten rules with plenipotentiary powers. He can be dismissed only by the British government.

That is a source of much of the frustration for council members, who may represent the people but have no powers.

But Hong Kong's paternalistic administration has long taken pride in ruling by what it calls "consensus politics" and a no-confidence motion undermines that comfortable policy.

"We have not heard Mr. Wu's side of the story," Sen. Helms said in his statement.

"We said he was fine, that he was being fed, was not

being beaten or tortured," he added.

The United States understood he was being detained for allegedly entering China under false identities, stealing state secrets and disseminating these secrets, but had no details as to the specific charges, Mr. Burns said.

The spokesman said the United States would do everything possible to ensure Mr. Wu's rights were protected, while calling for him to be given legal representation of his choice and further contacts with consular officials.

Chinese officials indicated that, in line with consular practice, U.S. officials might not be allowed to see Mr. Wu again for another month.

Monday was the first time Chinese authorities had granted consular access to Mr. Wu, who before becoming a U.S. citizen had served 19 years in Chinese prisons as a political prisoner.

Mr. Wu's detention comes at a time of growing difficulties with China, notably in the wake of the unofficial visit here by President Lee Teng-Hui of Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade province.

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord phoned the Chinese charge d'affaires here over the weekend to make it plain that the "Harry Wu case is important to us," Mr. Burns said.

"Beijing may think it has nothing to lose by lashing out at Harry Wu, but the Chinese leaders need to understand that Sino-American relations today are tenuous at best,"

Sen. Helms said in his statement.

During visits to China in recent years, Mr. Wu secretly gathered information on alleged Chinese human rights abuses, including the sale of human organs taken without consent from death-row prisoners and the use of prison labour to manufacture goods for export.

The information was used in television documentaries overseas as well as in testimonies by Mr. Wu to such forums as the U.S. Congress, the U.N. Human Rights commission and the European Parliament.

Diplomats in China said Mr. Wu had become a pawn in the Sino-U.S. dispute, predicting that he could be given a heavy sentence to heighten his potential value as a bargaining chip.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch, a non-governmental organisation, Monday called on the U.S. administration to "respond energetically" to win Mr. Wu's release.

Washington Watch director Mike Jendrzejczyk in a statement called for the suspension of high-level visits to China, including that by Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and that under consideration by first lady Hillary Clinton, who might visit Beijing in September for the U.N. World Conference on Women.

He also called for suspension of World Bank funding and pressure by U.S. businesses to win Mr. Wu's release.

Senior State Department officials suggested Monday that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might meet his Chinese counterpart on the sidelines of an Association of South East Asian

States conference in Beijing in September. "Some years ago, the university was repeatedly troubled by ideological agitation and student demonstrations, but today it is developing in a stable fashion."

The newspaper praised the university — cradle of the student-led demonstrations that were brutally suppressed on the night of June 3-4, 1989 — has succeeded in shedding the images of that period and returned to its proper role as a scholarly centre, the newspaper said.

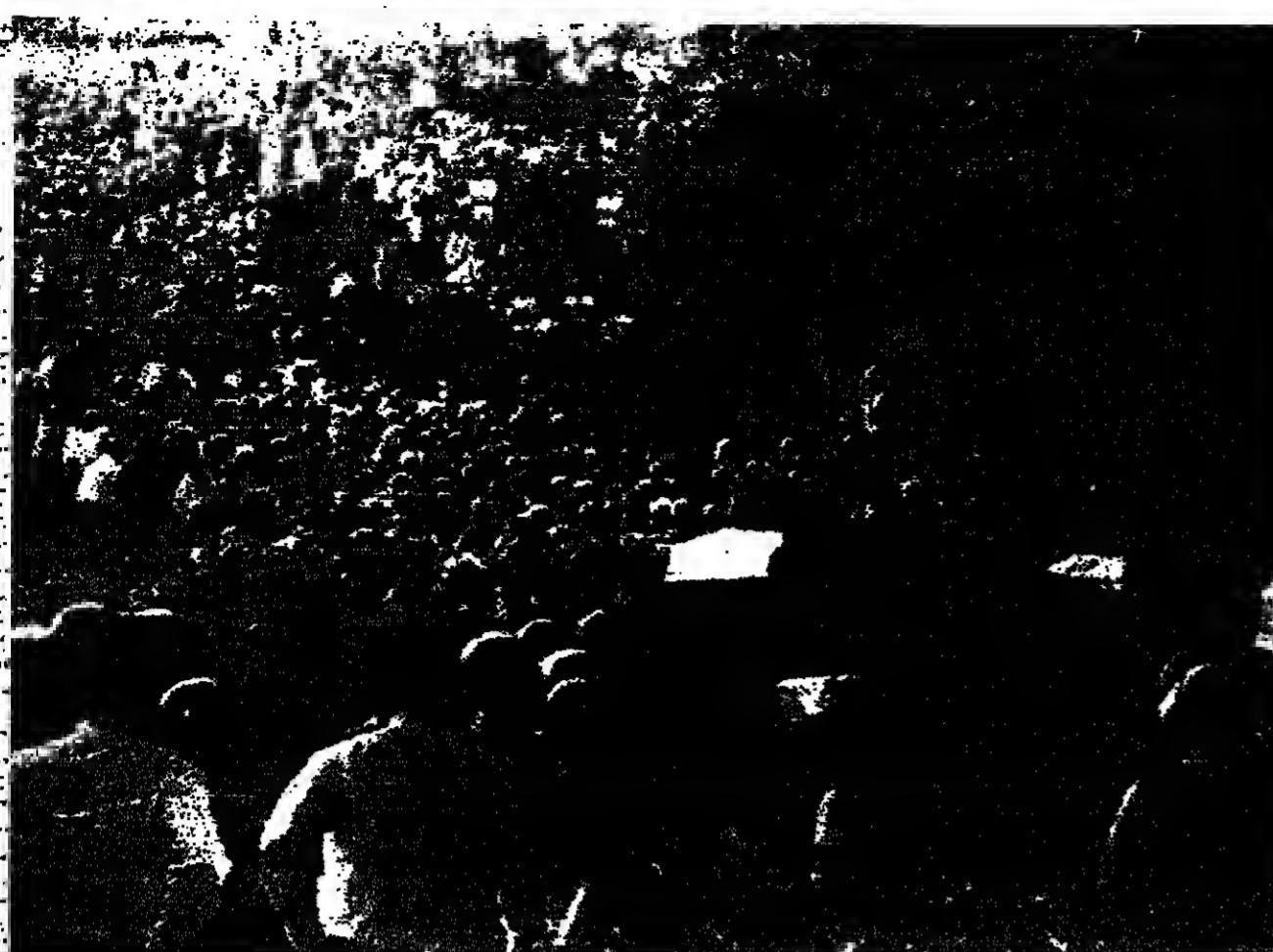
"She is a Protestant Christian and said she would spend part of her prize to build a church for her religion," said Manuel Morato, chairman of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, which runs the lotto. The game, which involves picking a winning combination of six numbers from one to 42, was introduced five months ago.

"The National

new ship, increased

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Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) officers in riot gear block the road to members of the Orange Order in Portadown in an attempt to stop confrontation with Nationalists. Hundreds of angry Protestants refused late Sunday to budge from a road

## N.Ireland Protestants march through Portadown

PORTRADOWN, Northern Ireland (AFP) — Hundreds of Protestants marched — silent, grim-faced, but peacefully — through a Catholic enclave of the south Ulster town today in a traditional Orange parade delayed by two days of violent clashes.

The parade, agreed by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) after lengthy talks with Catholics and Protestants, broke a 48-hour confrontation that had drawn thousands of angry Protestants to this town of 4,000 from across Northern Ireland.

Shortly before noon, the police suddenly withdrew from Garvagh Road around the Drumcree parish church where they and the Protestant marchers, or Orangemen, as they are known, had been nose-to-nose since Sunday.

Minutes later, the parade began and swiftly covered the route towards some 200 Catholic protesters who, in accordance with the agree-

ment, withdrew to the sidelines behind a light cordon of police.

There was an icy silence as Protestant marchers walked the 100-metre gauntlet past the silent, glaring Catholic protesters, some of whom held up banners saying, "No Sectarian Marches."

The Orangemen stared straight ahead, carrying a single banner with Union Jack and Orange flag fluttering in the breeze.

Within minutes they had passed.

Not an insult was exchanged, not a stone thrown, and when they were past the Catholics, the Protestants broke the tension with a hearty round of applause they said was for the police, and for themselves.

The RUC's green light followed a night in which several policemen were injured in clashes with throngs of Protestants, numbering upwards of 10,000, who had rallied here to protest the altered parade route.

officers, pelted with stones, bottles and other projectiles, fired rubber bullets at the advancing unionist crowd, barely managing to keep them out of the Garvagh Road area.

In an apparent concession to the Catholics, Tuesday's march had virtually none of the loud music, gaudy flags, banners, ribbons and fanfare that are the traditional accompaniments — some say provocations — of the summer Orange parades that have been an age-old fixture in Ulster.

Brendon McKenna, chairman of the Garvagh Road residents' group, said the agreement allowing the march to go ahead had been a triumph for common sense.

"There was no triumphalism on our part," he said. "We are not classing this as a victory over the Orange Order. Common sense has prevailed."

One Protestant woman, asked if she felt any sympathy for the Catholic protesters,

replied, "Why should I? I used to live on Garvagh Road before they took it over and we had to get out."

Seamus Mallon, MP with the moderate Catholic Social Democrat and Labour Party, said the Orange parades "are not here to express peoples' beliefs, but to offend people who do not share those beliefs. It's a macho thing."

The Protestants' Sunday had attempted to walk the route they have walked every summer for 188 years, from church back to their homes.

This time, following a week of sectarian conflict stirred by the controversial release of a British soldier convicted of murdering a Catholic teenager, the police said the route would have to be diverted to avoid clashes.

The Orangemen, backed by top officials, politicians including the Reverend Ian Paisley, fiery leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, refused to move, saying the parade route was their right and tradition.

## Burma's Suu Kyi vows to work for democracy

RANGOON (Agencies) — Burmese dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, appearing in public Tuesday for the first time after six years in detention, said she was confident democracy would prevail in her troubled South East Asia country.

Less than 24 hours after being freed from house arrest by Burma's military rulers, Ms. Suu Kyi said she was willing to talk to them about achieving peace and stability in the country.

"I am happy to be able to say that despite all that we have undergone, the forces for democracy in Burma remain strong and dedicated," a beaming Suu Kyi told reporters.

"I know that democracy will come to Burma because it is something that the people want," said the 50-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner, adding she never doubted she would be freed.

As she spoke to a large gathering of reporters in the lakeside home to which she had been confined since July 20, 1989, a delighted crowd gathered on the street outside, even though Tuesday afternoon a local media blackout of news of her release was still in force.

Ms. Suu Kyi said top officials from the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) told her Monday afternoon that she was unconditionally freed.

"They would like me to help towards achieving peace and stability in the country," Ms. Suu Kyi said.

"We have to choose between dialogue or utter devastation. I would like to believe that human instinct for survival alone, if nothing else, would eventually lead us to prefer dialogue."

Ms. Suu Kyi also said she had bad feelings towards those who imprisoned her, and said some of them were even "charming," but pleaded to military authorities for moderation.

"Extreme viewpoints are not confined to any particular group and it is the responsibility of the leaders to control such elements as they threaten the spirit of reconciliation," said Manuel Sison, chairman of the New People's Army, which runs the NPA.

She appealed to the government to release other



Aung San Suu Kyi

suts showed the true feelings of the Burmese. "The majority of the people in Burma believe in the market economy and democracy as was amply viewed by the results of the 1990 elections," she said.

Ms. Suu Kyi had a short meeting with Rangoon-based diplomats Tuesday following the news conference marking her release from house arrest.

Diplomats reached by telephone in Rangoon said that several who had attended the news conference had talks with her afterward in which she said she was looking forward to further contacts.

The diplomats declined to give further details or to say who was present at the meeting.

Smiling broadly, Ms. Suu Kyi spoke to cheering supporters outside her compound after the news conference, encouraging them to keep the faith.

The crowd, which had waited patiently, many of them seated in the roadway on University Avenue outside the gate, chanted wishes of health happiness to the opposition leader, eyewitnesses said.

Saying it was best to operate within the law, Ms. Suu Kyi encouraged the crowd to reach the roadway — which they did immediately and in orderly fashion, the eyewitnesses said.

China was the first country to recognise Burma's military junta after it came to power in a coup d'état in 1988. It is currently the main supplier of military aid to its southern neighbour.

And while China generally does not comment on other countries' domestic affairs — especially when the issue is embarrassing for the government, it knows attention could now fall on its own rights record.

"This is an internal affair of Burma," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said of the release of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

But even the positive responses were nearly all tinged with caution about the future conduct of the military officers in Rangoon.

Amnesty International, a frequent critic of Burma's human rights record, urged Mr. Evans to press for further improvements when he goes to an ASEAN summit in Brunei this month.

One of the kidnapped Americans, John Childs of Japan announced it would

not be to the overgrown vegetation inside the compound of her house on the shore of the Inya Lake, Ms. Suu Kyi said she was first going to try and understand what's been going on outside this garden.

Her next priority would be to sit down with fellow pro-democracy leaders and decide on their next steps.

Immediately after her release, and again Tuesday morning, Ms. Suu Kyi met senior officials of the National League for Democracy (NLD) she helped found in 1988.

The NLD swept elections in 1990, taking 392 of the 485 contested seats — even though Ms. Suu Kyi was already detained at the time. The SLORC never recognised the election result.

Ms. Suu Kyi said the re-

## Teenaged girl rescued after 12 days in Seoul store rubble

SEOUL (AFP) — Rescuers Tuesday plucked a teenaged girl from the rubble of the collapsed Sampoong Department Store, miraculously alive 12 days after the disaster that killed and injured more than 1,300 people.

Doctors said the 18-year-old sales assistant, Yoo Ji-Hwan, had survived on drops of rainwater seeping through the tangled cement blocks trapping her.

They diagnosed her as in remarkably good health, despite an acute kidney problem caused by dehydration and malnutrition.

Ms. Yoo was talking animatedly minutes after her rescue, and won the hearts of thousands glued to the rescue on television by peering out from the towel shielding her eyes from the sunlight to take a look at the world.

But hopes for three other survivors, who rescuers understood were entombed in the narrow, dark crawl-hole with Ms. Yoo, were dashed when the rescuers found minutes later they had found no trace of them.

"We cannot confirm they are there," Yonhap Television News (YTN) quoted a rescue team chief on the collapsed site as saying.

But he added that the relentless search, buoyed by the dramatic rescues of Ms. Yoo, a 21-year-old youth, Choi Myung-Suk, two days ago, would not stop, despite the dangers posed to rescuers by monsoon rain and lightning.

Ms. Yoo communicated with her rescuers by wiggling "yes-no" signals, with one maniac foot, the only part of her that was visible, as they gingerly dug toward her for an hour and a half, fearful



Yoo Ji-Hwan, the 18-year-old girl dug out after surviving under the rubble of the collapsed Sampoong Department Store, her eyes freed alive from the debris of the June 29 disaster (AFP photo)

of toppling a huge tilted cement slab above her.

"What day is it?" rescuers said she asked them as they pulled her out feet first. Later she told doctors at suburban St. Mary's Hospital where she was admitted that what she most wanted was "an iced coffee."

Ms. Yoo's discovery was made just before 2:00 p.m. local time (0500 GMT) — 24 hours after the disaster — following a sound detector blip, near to the place where Choi Myung-Suk, two days ago, would not stop, despite the dangers posed to rescuers by monsoon rain and lightning.

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when the five-storey building collapsed on June 29.

YTN television showed the hundreds of relatives of the missing, who are camped in makeshift hall near the site, cheering, and some weeping, as they watched Ms. Yoo emerging from the hole on television sets.

Ms. Yoo's mother told television interviewers, "her father is very ill, so I lied and told him she was alive. She is alive. Oh, she is alive."

She also said Ms. Yoo, who graduated from high school in February and had worked at the store for eight months, was the family's sole breadwinner.

Mr. Choi had spent 10 days in an air pocket, also living off rainwater and chewing on cardboard.

The confirmed death toll from the disaster meanwhile rose to 211 with more than 200 still missing. More than 900 people were injured

ing's steel frame, from leaving the country.

On Monday, the investigators issued arrest warrants for four suburban officials who they say took bribes of tens of thousands of dollars to overlook illegal extensions to the store.

One, Hwang Chol-Min, accused of accepting a free country club membership worth \$15,800 in return for giving the building a clean bill of health, was currently chief of the training centre for Seoul city public officials, Yonhap News Agency said.

The Sampoong owners, including founder and Chairman Lee Jun, are under arrest for manslaughter caused by criminal negligence.

The shopping centre, one of the plusher in Seoul, was built during a building boom in 1989 on the site of an old trash landfill.

## Anti-nuclear anger mars Chirac European Parliament talk

STRASBOURG, France (Agencies) — French President Jacques Chirac got a taste of the Europe-wide unpopularity of his decision to resume nuclear weapons tests when lawmakers jeered him as he addressed the European Parliament Tuesday.

Speakers denounced the use of force by the French Navy to drive the Greenpeace environmental organisation's flagship, Rainbow Warrior, away from Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia, where the French tests are due to resume in September.

Friedrich Wolf of the German Greens Party denounced Mr. Chirac in a response to his speech as a "Neo-Gaullist Rambo."

He called for cross-border resistance to force France to abandon its South Pacific tests, just as the oil giant Shell was forced to drop plans to dump the obsolete oil platform Brent Spar in the Atlantic last month.

As Mr. Chirac began speaking, some deputies tried to shout him down with rhythmic chants of "no." Parliament President Klaus Hahn interrupted Chirac and shouted at members to quiet.

Dozens of left-wing parliamentarians held signs bearing the slogan "stop nuclear tests now" in French and German.

Mr. Chirac said France favours a strong European foreign and defence policy. The vision of Europe he set out briefly was markedly more nationalistic and less integrationist than Mr. Mitterrand's.

Mr. Chirac called for a demonstration of the credibility of this parliament.

Mr. Chirac's rough reception was in stark contrast to the standing ovation which his predecessor, Francois Mitterrand, won in the same chamber six months earlier, when he declared in an acclaimed speech: "Nationalism is war."

An Irish Greens parliamentarian, Nuala Abern, said security men threw her to the ground as Mr. Chirac arrived. She told Reuters she would file a police complaint and press charges for assault.

Others opened umbrellas in the gold-starred blue colours of the EU to shield the whole continent, with greater decision-making power for the Council of member governments and a bigger say for national parliaments alongside the European Parliament.

Mr. Chirac called for a more democratic EU, which means a reinforcement of the national parliaments and does not exclude in the least the necessary increase in the powers of the Strasbourg parliament.

He said "France favours a greater Europe that will finally bring together our continent, as former French President General (Charles) De Gaulle had wished."

Right-wing speakers deplored the protests. Former Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, in a brief rejoinder, Mr. Chirac said the eight tests planned between September and May would be France's last, and would enable it to sign a global test ban treaty next year.

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The Indian authorities believe that Mr. Hahn is being held by the same Muslim militant group which abducted the Americans and Britons but no organised has claimed responsibility for his kidnapping.

"We are sure militants are present on the trekking route and we don't want any more kidnappings," a police officer said.

Indian authorities believe that Mr. Hahn is being held by the same Muslim militant group which abducted the Americans and Britons but no organised has claimed responsibility for his kidnapping.

Thousands of Hindus visit Amarnath every year and dozens who have already reached Amarnath are now stranded.

"The Hindu pilgrims shall be allowed to proceed when we are able to ensure full security," the officer said.

Indian troops have been searching the woods around Pahalgam for the Western

tourists and have harried foreigners and Hindu pilgrims from leaving the town, saying they could become fresh targets of militants prowling the area.

The Harkat, which has many Afghans in its ranks, has threatened to attack Hindu pilgrims trekking to Amarnath in retaliation for what it described as "the desecration and destruction of Islamic shrines in India."

On Tuesday, Umar Farooq, the Muslim religious leader of Kashmir, demanded the release of the Western tourists and condemned the kidnapping.

Mr. Farooq, who also heads the Freedom Conference, an umbrella group of Muslim organisations supporting Kashmir's secession from India, said he was trying to contact the kidnappers and secure the release of their captives.

Other Kashmiri Muslim separatist groups have condemned the abductions and accused "Indian agents" of staging the kidnappings to discredit their movement.

In Oslo, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry said it was unable to comment about the kidnapping.

"Our embassy in New Delhi is trying to get in touch with the information," a ministry spokesman said.



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## Murder, slavery and theft in lawless Somalia

**MOGADISHU (AFP)** — Farmers in Somalia's fertile lower Shabelle region came forward Thursday to tell stories of an area ostensibly at peace but where they say militiamen beat, murder, enslave, tax, steal and expropriate.

The farmers added that they ended up thanking the gunmen — loyal to south Mogadishu warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed — for not killing them.

Among the stories: one 29-year-old man killed because he ate two bananas as he worked as a virtual slave on a plantation, and a woman who gave birth after being forced to work all day.

The slave-workers are fed a meagre diet of beans boiled in unsalted water, the farmers say, but are forbidden to eat the fruit they pick.

Ironically, life was actually easier for them in the days of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, overthrown in January 1991, since harvesters then could eat as many bananas as they wanted so long as they did not take any home.

The farmers say that two big banana companies, Sombana, a subsidiary of

the U.S.-based Dole corporation, and Somalfruit, which has Italian backing, use militiamen aboard dozens of "technical" pickup trucks with heavy weapons mounted — to force men, women and children to work on the plantations for more than 11 hours a day for little or no pay.

Roadside sellers said they would give terrified nods of appreciation as passing militiamen helped themselves to cigarettes, coconuts, and fruit juices.

Sombana head Ahmad Duale Gelle "Haf" denied the charge. "We haven't seen human rights violations in the region so far," he said.

Militiamen sell

unreated river water for drinking at 500 shillings per jerry can, the equivalent of nine U.S. cents, and charge 150,000 shillings for enough canal water to irrigate a small farm once.

On top of that, the farmers say, they levy a "regional defence tax."

A university graduate who gave his name only as Dr. Musa said he saw a 32-year-old man "tortured, then shot in the head and thrown on a garbage pile, where his body was set ablaze."

The farmers say some militias are employed directly by the companies,

and that the others are loyal to General Aideed, who they say is supported financially by both Sombana and Somalfruit despite his ouster as chairman of the Somali National Alliance on June 11 by his financier-turned-rival, Osman Hassan Ali "Atto."

Aideed supporters elected the general as Somalia's "interim president" on June 15, a move unrecognised by his rival.

During the banana harvest, the farmers said, militiamen will pay 50 Somali cents for each bunch of bananas.

This means a strong man able to carry 400 bunches in a day can earn the equivalent of three U.S. cents.

But the militiamen sell

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drinking at 500 shillings per jerry can, the equivalent of nine U.S. cents, and charge 150,000 shillings for enough canal water to irrigate a small farm once.

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## Negotiating the last taboo

(Continued from page 6)

Majesty) King Hussein stated it best at the White House ceremony which ended the state of war between Jordan and Israel: "We are on our way now truly towards what is normal in relations between our peoples and ourselves."

As a law professor, I am constantly asked what principles of law are relevant to resolution of the refugee issue. The answer, cynical though it may sound, is "very few." Three aspects of international law, aside from the general principle of respect for human rights, are germane, but not necessarily helpful. They are the right of return within the context of the international law of freedom of movement; the right of refugees to compensation both for their dislocation and for property left behind; and the prohibition on mass expulsion and involuntary transfer.

\* On the other first subject, return, international law scholars such as Tufts University professor Hurst Hannum have closely con-

strued the relevant language of the central treaty, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which reads: "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country." The word "return" is conspicuously absent from this formulation. Moreover, it is structured as an individual right and not a collective or group right. It has also been pointed out that the most relevant non-treaty law on the subject of Palestinian refugees, the U.N. General Assembly's Resolution 194, adopted in 1948, states that the refugees "should be permitted to return to their homes.... and receive compensation" but nowhere uses the word "right." Therefore, I think that resort by Palestinian negotiators to the legalise of "right of return" can only result in the politicised locking of horns.

\* On the second topic, refugee compensation, it must be acknowledged that aside from a few and very discreet occasions, no large-scale refugee crisis has ever been resolved

\* The third germane

through the award of compensation. However, much ground-breaking research in the specific context of Palestinian refugees has been done by SUNY Binghamton political scientist Don Perez, author of the recent book, *Palestinian Refugees and the Middle East Peace Process*. He has worked on identifying Palestinian property left behind in Israel in 1948, as well as methods of assessing the current value of that property and the possible means of funding and distributing compensation. The parties to the peace process have barely touched on this very volatile compensation question. Thrown in the cauldron is the issue of Israeli counter-claims concerning Jewish property abandoned in Arab countries in the period of 1949-1952 when Jews from Iraq, Yemen and elsewhere migrated to Israel. The lobby group World Organisation of Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC) claims that this property is worth five times that of Arab property left in Israel.

\* The third germane

area involves customary international law norms about mass expulsion and forcible transfer of populations. From time to time, extremists in both Palestinian and Israeli camps have espoused purported "solutions" to the conflict that invoke these rejectionist means. Suffice it to say that international law forbids such unilateral action.

However, bilateral and multilateral agreements to transfer populations are permitted by international law if offered to the transferee on a truly voluntary basis, if the process is orderly and humane, and if compensation for abandoned property is provided. Whether one-sided or compulsory economic incentives or imposed political conditions can be considered voluntary depends on the individual context.

I believe that the traditional discourse which attempts to divide Palestinians into categories based on from where and when they left and why they left is bound to lead nowhere. There will never be agreement on the "magic number." Moreover, the numbers game is inherently retrospective and blame-ridden, and as time passes,

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Palestinians for whom repatriation to the West Bank or Gaza or a package of resettlement and compensation and

to remain in the Kingdom, if they can be given either Palestinian-Jordanian dual citizenship or a Palestinian identity card, as well as compensation for property abandoned in 1948. Similarly, although the 350,000 Palestinians of Syria do not have citizenship, most are virtual citizens in all but name, living in permanent housing in neighbourhoods of Damascus. Syria should agree to grant them citizenship and not consider dual Palestinian citizenship as a sign of disloyalty. (A large number of Palestinians might be willing to accept permanent absorption and citizenship in their present locales in Jordan and Syria. Integration in asylum countries is one of the three commonly acknowledged "durable solutions" to refugee crises, the others being repatriation and resettlement in third countries. It should not be considered an ineffectual or "copout" solution for Palestinians.

That would leave somewhere in the neighbourhood of one to one-and-a-half million Palestinians for whom repatriation to the West Bank or Gaza or a package of resettlement and

citizenship in other North African and Gulf states are possible options. Moreover, based on discussions with both Palestinian and Israeli moderates, I believe it will be possible for an Israeli Labour government to accept between 50,000 and 100,000 returnees to Haifa, Jaffa and other Palestinian ancestral homes within Israel, so long as there is a concomitant commitment by Israel's neighbours to offer permanent settlement to comparable numbers in their own countries. (One hundred thousand is the figure that Israel agreed to readmit back in 1949. That was a much greater percentage then, relative to Israel's Jewish population at that time and relative to the Palestinian population of the time than it is in today's demographic framework).

Even a long-standing taboo such as this one can indeed be addressed, and even resolved; so long as the negotiators have been primed through public discussion of a small set of basic principles, the most fundamental being: acceptance of one's neighbours as permanent and regular fellow citizens, rather than as mortal enemies or political pawns.

## Centrists seen to sweep elections

(Continued from page 1)

statement from Russeif two hours later announcing their withdrawal "because of the unfriendly elections."

During a tour of polling centres, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker criticised the withdrawal of some people and described it as "illegal."

He said those who want to contest the elections should go to court instead of withdrawing, which is against the law.

Jordanians voted on Tuesday for 231 councils out of 259 since 28 councils and their Mayors were elected last week by acclamation.

Official figures indicate that 789,274 voters had reg-

istered to vote.

Voting centres opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m.

Five leftist opposition par-

ties are also contesting the elections: the Communist Party, the Democratic Popular Party, the Popular Union Party, the Progressive Baathist Party and the Democratic Front.

In contrast to parliamentary elections, members of the Armed Forces were allowed to vote.

In Irbid, early morning turnout at the polling stations was weak, but it increased in the afternoon, especially at the women's polling stations.

Nearly 28,000 of the 126,436 registered voters

showed up for the Irbid municipality voting.

The highest turnout was for the municipality of Kourah with 62.8.

The average turnout for all Irbid municipalities was 59.6 per cent.

"Voter turnout was weak but it rose in the afternoon," said one official at one of the 88 cen-

The official told the Jordan Times that the elections went smoothly except of some cases where voters had forgotten to bring their identification cards, and "they were not allowed to vote."

Seven blocs completed in Irbid.

Irbid citizens voiced their satisfaction over the municipality elections.

**Islamists quit**

(Continued from page 1)

member of the IAF consultative council, included claims that individual voters had been allowed to cast more than one vote, that government officials were distributing ballot papers freely outside polling centres without references to voter lists, and that police had taken into custody 200 drivers of buses and cars who were transporting IAF supporters to the polling stations. The vehicles impounded bore posters of the Islamic Bloc candidates.

Deputy Emoush told the Jordan Times that he had complained to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker at nine in the morning that there were numerous violations in the Zarqa elections, and that the government had to put an end to it. "The Arab Army is voting in Zarqa, not the people," Mr. Emoush said he told Sharif Zeid, who promised him to visit Zarqa and inspect the situation. "He did, but it became worse afterwards," the deputy said. The meeting with the prime minister was also attended by Deputy Abdulla Al-Sa'leh, and Ishaq Farhan, secretary general of the IAF.

Telephones and fax-machines in the IAF's branch office and in the houses of several Islamist candidates

were temporarily disconnected during the day, Islamists complained. According to Mr. Abu Al-Sa'leh, telephone lines were cut from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mr. Abu Al-Sa'leh said that the IAF had to send faxes from outside their offices.

Deputy Emoush told the Jordan Times that he had complained to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid, who promised him to visit Zarqa and inspect the situation. "He did, but it became worse afterwards," the deputy said. The meeting with the prime minister was also attended by Deputy Abdulla Al-Sa'leh, and Ishaq Farhan, secretary general of the IAF.

Governor Tarawneh explained to the Jordan Times

that the large numbers of young men Islamists had observed in front of the Officers Club in Zarqa were Tawhid students applying for admission to the military wing of Mut'a University.

According to Mr. Tarawneh, drivers were arrested for violating traffic rules and for transporting passengers without licences to do so.

Explaining the Islamists' decision to withdraw from the elections at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Mr. Abu Al-Sa'leh said: "We insisted on exercising our right to vote, but the continuous violations that began with registration, the forging of seals and additional voter registration... it was simply overdone. There was no way out — we had to boycott the elections."

Polling stations in Zarqa closed at 9 p.m. following an extension of opening time by two hours. Only 25479 voters out of 49,443 who had registered turned out to cast their ballots.

## Shell battle inspires Greenpeace to fight on

By Kate Kelland  
Reuters

AMSTERDAM — Greenpeace has always been on the front line in the environmentalists' battle to save the planet, but its recent successes have inspired and refreshed hopes that the small guys really can beat the world's polluters.

Long gone are the days when "earth lovers" with their brown-bread-and-bicycles image, shook their fists at the governments and corporate giants they claimed were polluting the earth.

Admirable, but rather pathetic, they were dismissed as wacky hippies without a hope of gaining real public support.

But adept media manipulation by Greenpeace's multi-million dollar publicity machine, snatching prime-time soundbites and front page news, helped win public acclaim and raised the lobby's profile around the world.

Images of activists hugging baby seals to protect them from club-wielding fur hunters in Canada, or paddling perilously in tiny rubber dinghies to block huge ships carrying nuclear waste, soon became familiar throughout the world.

"If Shell was a big adversary, then the French government with all its military and technical means is obviously a much harder nut to crack," international campaign director Ulrich Jurgens told Reuters.

"But in the end we will prove that what they are doing is wrong and they will have the popular opinion against them as much as Shell did," he added, referring to the Greenpeace-led campaign which forced Shell to abandon plans to dump the Brent Spar oil platform at sea.

After a quarter of a century of peaceful protest aimed at protecting the environment, Greenpeace has been transformed into a slick, fast-acting organisation.

It recognised the value of winning the battle for the media and wired itself up for the 1990s, harnessing modern technology to drive home its environmental message.

With its global headquarters in Amsterdam, Greenpeace had fallen off in recent years, with membership down from a peak of almost five million in 1990 to just over three million last year as internal bickering blighted the group's public standing.

Some campaigners felt

year. The money pays for a full time staff of 12,000 — there are many thousands of volunteers — a fleet of six vessels, two hot air balloons, a helicopter and hundreds of rubber dinghies.

Greenpeace was the first "green" group to use digital compression television to beam live pictures of its campaign to the world's media. It has thousands of mobile and satellite telephones, beepers and on-site faxes.

"At the very beginning of Greenpeace's history it became very apparent that if we could bring images of environmental abuse to the public... it would help us in the battle to win their hearts and then their minds," Richard Titchen, chief executive of Greenpeace communications, told Reuters.

"Going live is what everybody looks for these days. We have to keep up with modern technology."

Support for Greenpeace had fallen off in recent years, with membership down from a peak of almost five million in 1990 to just over three million last year as internal bickering blighted the group's public standing.

Some campaigners felt

Greenpeace was becoming

too much like a profit-making institution. They argued that job cuts and reorganisations cut at the group's core.

But last month's victory over Shell rekindled public support and helped reunite internal factions.

The campaign bore all the group's traditional hallmarks.

Activists risked their lives to stop the rig being dumped, the media was fed live video pictures of battles with Shell's water cannons. European governments condemned Shell and there was a widespread public boycott of its petrol stations.

The result proved the worth of marrying slick publicity with old-fashioned people power.

"It's not really about the actual contents of the (Brent) Spar and what it could have done," Mr. Jürgen said. "But the Spar very much symbolises the way in which an industrialised society goes about dealing with the waste we produce."

"The important point is that this waste was created by Shell, the third biggest company on this planet, and that it was still planning to behave like a little child who throws a lemonade can into the water."

might be called "balanced compromises" which offers dignity through compensation, group identity and protection through membership in a duly-recognised Palestinian nationality, and — through a rational limit on the number who actually repatriate to either Israel or Palestine, the economic and political stability that the entire region needs. It could be administered by a joint commission of Palestinians, Israelis, Jordanians, Syrians, Lebanese and Egyptians, with perhaps ex-officio members from the United States, Canada, Russia and other countries, both inside and outside the Middle East, which will underwrite the process with financial resources.

Even a long-standing taboo such as this one can indeed be addressed, and even resolved; so long as the negotiators have been primed through public discussion of a small set of basic principles, the most fundamental being: acceptance of one

## Gulf Arab states curb spending to tackle deficit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are tightening their belts gradually to tackle a chronic budget deficit after years of lavish government spending sapped their coffers and turned some of them into debtor nations.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which control 45 per cent of the world's oil, projected a seven-year low spending in 1995 and most of them have already made clear they would make further cuts in coming years.

Expenditure was projected at around \$68.8 billion in 1995, down from \$71.4 billion in 1994 and \$81.9 billion in 1992.

This compares with a record \$124 billion in 1991, when most of them contributed heavily to a U.S.-led military coalition that ousted Iraqi invasion forces from Kuwait.

The 1995 spending was the lowest since 1988, when expenditure dipped to around \$58 billion as oil prices collapsed to below \$10 due to a production war among key oil producers.

"You should rationalise expenditure and restrict it to important and necessary things," the Saudi Press Agency quoted King Fahd as telling his cabinet ministers at their weekly meeting on Monday.

Saudi Arabia, the world's

top oil producer and exporter, has made the heaviest spending cuts in the GCC as it relies on crude exports and its coffers were badly hurt by the 1991 Gulf war.

In 1994, the kingdom slashed expenditure by nearly 20 per cent to \$42.66 billion from \$52.5 billion in 1993. It again tightened spending in 1995 to \$40 billion slashing the projected deficit to \$4 billion from around \$10 billion, according to official figures.

Kuwait cut spending to \$13.4 billion in fiscal year 1994-1995 from \$14.4 billion in the previous year. It has announced plans to make further cuts in the coming years to eliminate the deficit in the year 2000.

Bahrain also reduced expenditure to \$1.7 billion from \$1.79 billion while Oman and Qatar projected a slight rise on the grounds their deficits are manageable, according to bankers.

Although the remaining member, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has kept federal expenditure almost unchanged over the past few years, it has cut actual spending through the year, slashing the shortfall in some years and turning it into a surplus in other years.

Predicting no improvement in oil prices, the UAE Finance and Industry Ministry told government departments

last week to keep their belts tightened.

"You must consider tightening expenditure compared with that in 1995 and excluding unnecessary spending," the ministry said in a letter.

Bankers said GCC governments were gradually rationalising their budgets to avert an immediate detriment to their economies as government spending has remained the main factor in domestic development.

The bankers noted that while the GCC private sector's share of the gross domestic product has risen to around 40 per cent from less than 30 per cent in 1985, it still heavily depends on state budgets for new projects.

GCC states produce around 13 million barrels per day of oil, providing more than 80 per cent of their income. Weak oil prices have also forced them to announce reforms, including privatisation for the first time.

Their belt-tightening policies have slowed down their economies but succeeded in slashing the budget deficit to around \$9.6 billion in 1995 from \$17.3 billion in 1994 and a record \$55 billion in 1991.

Bankers said the deficit could be lower in the next years if oil prices do not deteriorate and member states stick to rationalisation plans.

## Turkish PM in Azerbaijan to boost economic ties

BAKU (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller arrived in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku on Monday for a two-day visit focused on deepening economic ties with the Turkic-speaking former Soviet republic.

Ms. Ciller, accompanied by Turkish businessmen and bankers, told reporters she wanted to discuss ways to intensify economic cooperation and widen the role of Turkey in Azerbaijan.

Baku, which put out hundreds of Turkish and Azeri flags for the visit, greeted Ms. Ciller with huge portraits of the Turkish premier hanging from public buildings.

An Azeri Foreign Ministry official told reporters that Ms. Ciller would discuss extending the terms of \$250 million credit which Ankara has lent to Azerbaijan.

She will also hold preliminary talks on a possible \$600 million Turkish credit to modernise Azeri light industry.

Mr. Ciller will open an Azeri-Turkish bank in Baku on Tuesday and meet members of an international consortium which signed a \$8 billion oil deal to develop

three Caspian Sea fields.

Led by the British Petroleum/Statoil Alliance, the consortium includes Amoco Corp., Exxon Corp., McDermott International, Pennzoil Co., Unocal Corp., Rango Energy Plc., Lukoil, Saudi Arabia's Delta Nimir and Turkish Petroleum Corp.

The consortium, debating export routes for the project, has narrowed its options on early output exports from the second half of 1996 to Russia and Georgia.

Russia is pushing for its Novorossiisk outlet to be used and Turkey is lobbying for the construction of a pipeline to its Yumurtalik oil terminals on its Mediterranean coast.

Mr. Ciller, on a previous visit to Baku in April, said she could mobilise funds from the United States to finance the pipeline.

The pipeline's route is still undecided. A westward route through neighbouring Armenia has been ruled out because of eight years of conflict between Yerevan and Bakur.

Turkey supports Azerbaijan, with which it shares common language and cultural links, to its conflict with Armenia and wants Armenian forces to evacuate one-fifth of Azeri lands.

Much of the mystery surrounding the meeting was what direction Brazil would

## Prices surge as Iraqi dinar sinks to lowest level

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi dinar has hit another low against the U.S. dollar, leading to a further surge in prices of essential foodstuffs.

The dollar was trading at more than 1,450 dinars on Baghdad black market on Tuesday, up from 1,250 last month. Baghdad traders said demand for the greenback was high and predicted further slumps in local currency.

The downturn in the dinar's value caused what traders described as an unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities.

In less than 24 hours last week, one kilogramme of sugar jumped to about 2,000 dinars from 700. The average monthly salary of a government employee in Iraq is 3,500 dinars.

Eggs, tea, rice, cooking oil, chicken and meat also soared. A tray of 30 eggs rose to 2,750 from 2,250, tea to 1,600 from 1,000.

"They (prices) are like flames which no one can touch," said a woman in a popular market in Baghdad.

Residents said many Bagharians were selling the little they had left of their personal belongings. On pavements in

several Baghdad squares and open spaces, people exhibited furniture, chinaware, blankets, radio and T.V. sets and some even displayed family copies of Islam's holy book, the Koran.

The official press, urging the government to do something to curb the hikes, blamed profiteers and speculators.

Babel newspaper of President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, spoke this week of "economic chaos and confusion."

It urged "speedy measures" to curb prices and also "a crackdown on foodstuff marketers."

"Prices of foodstuffs have reached astronomical levels, beyond one's imagination," it said in a commentary.

The Trade Ministry interfered and announced on Monday that ships laden with sugar and other foodstuffs were on way to unload cargo at Iraq's southern port of Umm Qasir.

The announcement had sudden effect on prices and sugar slumped to about 1,000 dinars from 2,000 on Tuesday in Baghdad.

"The market is so volatile.

Rumours can push it up and down," a trader said.

With its oil exports choked off and assets abroad frozen, the government has no means to halt rampant inflation. It has turned down a U.N. offer to sell limited quantities of oil to pay for urgent humanitarian needs, saying the conditions infringe on Iraq's sovereignty.

Traders attributed the latest hikes in prices and the dinar's slump to hefty subsidies the government is paying farmers shipping their summer yields of wheat and barley to government silos.

Iraqi farmers are not as badly hit by U.N. trade sanctions imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. They now can be seen frequenting Baghdad's smartest hotels and restaurants, a rare scene prior to sanctions.

About 30 per cent of Iraq's 18 million people rely on farming.

Harshest hit are low income Iraqis who, according to U.N. estimates constitute about five million people. The U.N. says four million of them are in need of food aid and one million are threatened with hunger.

## Latin coffee producers seek to cut supply

BOGOTA (AFP) — The world's top two coffee exporters, Brazil and Colombia, agreed Monday with four smaller Central American producer countries to cut back sharply on coffee exports to try to boost prices.

Colombian Coffee Growers Federation (Fecafe) president Jorge Cardenas told reporters the two major producers along with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua had sealed a deal to reduce supplies to drain the market's glut.

"We are sure the agreement is going to represent a very positive message for the international coffee market," Mr. Cardenas said. "This has to bring about a strengthening of the market, a stabilising of prices and indeed a recovery in those prices."

"Every country's effort has been very important," he said. "Each one, taking into account its abilities and size, has made an enormous financial and economic effort to be able to limit supply."

But the Fecafe chief denied the cartel's concerted action was a declaration of war on consumer countries. "It is a declaration of defending producer countries' interests," he said.

Mr. Cardenas told reporters the six agreed to limit their combined exports over the next four quarters to 28 million sacks. Each sack weighs 60 kilogrammes.

Much of the mystery surrounding the meeting was what direction Brazil would

take. The success of measures aimed at driving up prices by reducing supply depends largely on participation by Brazil, as the largest coffee exporting country, and the shape that participation takes.

Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador together account for around 50 per cent of world exports, according to International Coffee Organisation data.

Colombia and the four Central American coffee countries last week announced they were suspending coffee sales registries to try to boost sagging prices.

The Fecafe chief said they likely would resume sales within a few days as long as prices head higher, and that Brazil was set to commit firmly to keeping its exports locked at an agreed maximum volume.

Brazil in fact agreed to export a maximum of three million sacks in each of the coming four quarters, through June 1996.

Colombia agreed to export

no more than two million sacks in the July-September quarter; 3.3 million in the October-December quarter; 2.25 million in the January-March 1996 quarter and 2.37 million in the April-June 1996 period. The remaining shares were divided among the smaller Central American countries.

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"If you really loved me, it wouldn't bother you when I say 'if you really loved me!'"

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROHTT

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HURTT

TELEEB

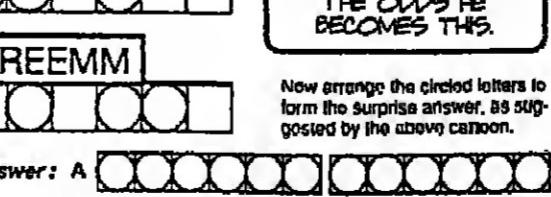
BREEMM

Answer: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumble: SOUSE GOURD FLURRY BELONG  
Answer: Always follows this when making hamburgers — THE "GROUND" RULES



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer. See suggestion posted by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumble: SOUSE GOURD FLURRY BELONG

Answer: Always follows this when making hamburgers — THE "GROUND" RULES

Birthstone of Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Business Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

of the week

# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1995. 9



A review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic press

## Aqaba to store Qatari gas

Aqaba will be used for storing Qatari liquefied gas is then exported to Europe, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwaze said. He said an American company working in the field of prospecting for and transporting Qatari oil offered to store gas in the port city until it is transported to Europe by sea. He said that the company also offered to give Jordan priority in purchasing its needs of gas. The minister said Jordan accepted the offer, provided that it be sold 500,000 tonnes of gas in 1995 to be used in generating electricity at Aqaba's Al Hussein Thermal Station (Al Dustour).

The Ministry of Education will this year offer tenders worth JD 180 million. Director of the ministry's Projects and Buildings Department Yahiya Kasbi said. Mr. Kasbi said the department plans to establish new school buildings in various parts of the Kingdom at a cost of JD 141 million and to build additional classrooms at some schools for JD 15 million. He said the department also plans to purchase educational technological devices for JD 18 million, build teachers' clubs in various areas for JD 2 million and expand administrative buildings for JD 1.7 million. Mr. Kasbi said the ministry will soon start constructing a building for the examinations department for the cost of JD 1 million (Al Ra'i).

Commander of the Amman Central Workshops of the Royal Maintenance Corps Brigadier Yazan Ajlouni said the department's work in repairing and maintaining military equipment saves the state budget large amounts of money which are used to import new machinery and spare parts. He said in addition to developing the Volkswagen cars, the corps plays a major role in repairing and rebuilding motorcycles. He said the workshops managed to repair 50 Honda motorcycles, noting that some of them were out of service since 1972. He said the workshops were about to repair some other 50 motorcycles (Al Ra'i).

The National Maritime Lines Company purchased a new ship, increasing the number of ships owned by the company to five. Company Director General Yasser Al Tal said the new ship, named "Al Safi," was expected to turn in high financial profits, noting that the company was also planning to buy two others before the end of the year. He said the new ship will join the company's fleet in transporting Jordanian exports. The company, Mr. Tal said, currently operates four ships to transport phosphates and potash to India. Since it started its activities in 1980, the company has made more than JD 15 million in profits, distributing it more than JD 8 million to shareholders (Al Ra'i).

## Oil markets shrug off Russian leader's health scare

LONDON (R) — World oil markets reacted calmly to news that Russian President Boris Yeltsin was taken to hospital with a heart problem since even a change in leadership is not expected to significantly impact oil flows.

London traders said the market had long grown accustomed to sudden upheavals in the political scene in Russia, the world's third largest oil producer and a major supplier to Europe. "A couple of years ago, the market would have become

immediately nervous. Now the market knows Yeltsin is not the only man who can run the FSU (former Soviet Union)," said Peter Gignoux, head of Smith, Barney's London energy desk.

Brent Blend Crude Oil Futures on London's International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) started the day just a few cents a barrel firmer but a slight bounce from Monday's 28-week lows had been expected.

At 1020 GMT, August Brent on the IPE stood at

\$16.21 a barrel, up just 10 cents from Monday's close. London traders said news that Mr. Yeltsin was taken to hospital on Tuesday after a heart condition worsened had no discernible impact on early trade.

Mr. Yeltsin's official spokesman said the Russian leader was well enough to work from his hospital bed and that "nothing serious" had happened to him.

"The market was totally non-plussed by the news. Even a change in leadership

isn't expected to really affect export flows" because they are so important to the economy, said Tim Holmes of Broker Mees Pierson.

Mr. Yeltsin, president of Russia since June 1991, had been due to attend talks in Moscow on Tuesday on the constitutional status of the eastern Siberian region Buryatia. He has not indicated whether he will stand for re-election in June next year.

While no oil market participants can deny the importance of Russia to world supplies, lessons learned from the aborted coup attempt in 1991 have made traders reluctant to react to headlines.

Because of old equipment and a lack of investment, ex-Soviet crude oil output has slumped 40 per cent since 1990 from 11.5 million to 6.84 million barrels per day. But an almost equally large decline in domestic demand has left exports buoyant. Renewed production from Russia has new fields in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are expected to halve the decline over the next two years.

"It would be reading too much into it to say someone new (taking over from Yeltsin) might suspend oil exports," said Chris Bellew of Brokers Prudential Bache. Just last week, Russia's upper parliament chamber postponed voting on a key

production-sharing law that could attract huge oil and gas investments.

Foreign companies are waiting for the production-sharing law to be enacted before proceeding with planned and new investments that could total \$50 billion or more in Russia's giant oil and gas sector.

The Fuel and Energy Ministry has said the legislation — which will iron out tax and jurisdiction issues — is crucial to reversing steep declines in the industry.

## Oil prices touch seven-month low

LONDON (R) — Oil prices were pushed to their lowest mark for seven months on Monday before recovering ground as a series of bearish factors continued to put pressure on the market, analysts said.

World benchmark Brent Blend Oil Futures for August touched \$15.80 a barrel — their weakest price since hitting \$15.86 on December 20 — before regaining ground during thin trading.

Prices followed suit in New York with spot crude contracts dropping below the critical psychological threshold of \$17 a barrel to \$16.95 before trimming early losses.

At 1957 GMT, the August Brent contract on London's International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) had recovered to \$16.12, up six cents from Friday's close.

The recovery was triggered in part by a market rumour of a problem with a Houston refinery. This was later denied but brokers said it had given the market the impetus to correct after last weeks losses. Technically the downward trend was still intact and prices would see today's lows again, they added.

Analysts, who predicted last week that crude had further to fall after touching a previous low for the year of \$16.00, said a perception of OPEC oversupply, U.S. sanctions against Iran and a glut of Russian oil, were combining to put pressure on the market.

## Kuwait company sees \$1.46b 95/96 profit

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) proposed 95/96 budget forecast net profit to rise 40.5 per cent to 437 million dinars (\$1.46 billion) in the year ending June 30, 1996, after it fell in the previous fiscal year.

State-owned KPC's budget sent to parliament for approval and obtained by Reuters shows net profit fell to 311 million dinars (\$1.04 billion) in the year ending June 30, 1995, from 410 million dinars (\$1.37 billion) in the same period in 1994.

It did not give a reason for the fall in profit of the company which runs Kuwait's oil and gas industry.

## Egypt aims to pay back foreign debt by 2026

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has \$30 billion in foreign debts which it aims to pay back by 2026, central bank governor Ismail Hassan told the government daily al Ahram on Monday.

The debt is not expected to increase, Mr. Hassan said.

He said that the hard currency holdings of Egyptian banks grew to \$11.5 billion by the end of April, compared to \$10.1 billion in April 1994.

Their holdings in Egyptian pounds grew to 133.4 billion (\$39.2 billion), up from 125.7 billion (\$37 billion), he added.

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3540/50	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks
	1.4008/18		
	1.5684/94	Dutch guilders	
	1.1612/22	Swiss francs	
	28.75/79	Belgian francs	
	4.8640/90	French francs	
	1616.0/1.0	Italian lire	
	87.22/32	Japanese yen	
	7.2350/50	Swedish kronas	
	6.2220/70	Norwegian kronas	
	5.4510/60	Danish kronas	
One sterling	\$1.5896/06		
One ounce of gold	\$385.15/385.35		

## Exporters nervous as anti-French boycott starts to bite

PARIS (AFP) — French exporters of wines and spirits on Tuesday expressed growing concern over the effects of an international boycott of their products, which after sharply depressing sales in Australia and New Zealand, was threatening to spread to northern Europe.

"We are above all afraid the problem is going to get worse," said Louis-Regis Affres of the Wines and Spirits Federation (FEVS), referring to the consumer boycott sparked by France's decision to resume testing nuclear weapons at its South Pacific test site.

He said exporters feared

scheduled for September. Concern was heightened on Tuesday by a call from the Danish branch of the European supermarket chain SPAR for its storeholders to boycott French goods.

SPAR Director for Denmark Jan Nielsen called on the company's 280 independent franchisees in the country — and also those else-

where — to take all "wines, cheeses, fruits and vegetables and other French products" off their shelves in protest at "the arrogant attitude of the French government."

The movement has so far attracted the most attention in Australia and New Zealand, where people see the Polynesian test site as being

in their back yards.

The Official Centre for Foreign Trade (CFCF) admitted on Tuesday that sales of French wines and spirits in those countries were down by between 20 and 40 per cent since President Jacques Chirac announced the resumption of tests last month.

Operations.

Seagram bought 80 per cent of MCA in May from the Japan-based Matsushita Electric Industrial Company for \$5.7 billion and had been looking for someone to run the company since.

Mr. Mayer, who worked for Mr. Ovitz of CAA is known as one of the kinder, gentler souls in the file capital. He personally represented such stars as Sylvester Stallone, Michael Douglas, Meryl Streep, Demi Moore, Tom Cruise and Whoopi Goldberg.

What will do be as the head of CAA?

"I don't know but whatever he is he will be wildly successful," said someone who has worked with him for 17 years.

One major change for Mr. Meyer will be moving from a seller of talent who sought to push up his clients asking prices for films, to a buyer seeking to keep a lid on the ever-burgeoning costs of making movies.

Mr. Meyer's departure from Creative Artists, where he often served as the soft-spoken counter weight to Mr. Ovitz's aggressive and often-resented style, could be a major loss for the agency founded in 1970.

"Everyone liked him. I knew he'd be a great agent someday," Ms. Hayman said from her Beverly Hills home. "But I can't say I expected something this big."

MCA did not say how much Mr. Meyer would earn, but when MCA was courting CAA Chairman Michael Ovitz recently he was offered a 250-million-dollar deal but he held out for a richer arrangement.

Mr. Meyer will become president and chief operating officer of MCA Inc. After working as a show salesman in Beverly Hills, Mr. Hayman said he got his break after a friend recommended him for a position as a junior agent. Starting salary — \$75 a week plus lunch at a nearby deli.

From his first job as a junior agent with Paul Kohner Agency up through the William Morris Agency and Creative Artists Agency (CAA), those who worked with him said he was marked for success from the start.

"He was a wonderful young man. He had this wide awake intensity. He wanted to learn about everything," said Irene Hayman, who worked with him at Paul Kohner when he was about 18 years old.

After working as a show salesman in Beverly Hills,

Mr. Hayman said he got his break after a friend recommended him for a position as a junior agent. Starting salary — \$75 a week plus lunch at a

nearby deli.

Operations.

Seagram bought 80 per cent of MCA in May from the Japan-based Matsushita Electric Industrial Company for \$5.7 billion and had been looking for someone to run the company since.

Mr. Mayer, who worked for Mr. Ovitz of CAA is known as one of the kinder, gentler souls in the file capital. He personally represented such stars as Sylvester Stallone, Michael Douglas, Meryl Streep, Demi Moore, Tom Cruise and Whoopi Goldberg.

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## World Basketball Championship Jordan take on Italy today

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's Under-18 national basketball team play the first of their matches when they take on Italy in the World Basketball Championship which opens in Athens today with 16 countries taking part.

Italy were the runners up in 1992 and third place in 1987, while they had finished sixth in 1979 and 1983.

Jordan is playing in Group C which is probably the toughest as it also includes titleholders the U.S. and Australia.

Group A includes China, Venezuela, Lithuania and Croatia.

Group B includes Nigeria, S. Korea, Argentina and France.

Group D includes Angola, Puerto Rico, Greece and Spain.

The first round matches will run up to July 21st when the competing teams start playing the second round. The qualifiers will play for the 1-16th places in the final round July 22.

Together with China and S. Korea, Jordan is representing Asia after clinching the continent's third place in the Asian Youth Championship in Manila in March.

Jordan is only the third Arab country to qualify for



The Kingdom's U-18 national basketball team

The World Championship as Egypt finished last in São Paulo in 1979 while Syria came in 12th among 19 participating teams gaining match experience against better, stronger teams.

capped by competing in the Men's Asian Championship where the team finished 17th among 19 participating teams gaining match experience against better, stronger teams.

The team includes Zeid

1992 championship standing

1. U.S.	7. Brazil	12. Syria
2. Italy	8. Canada	13. Angola
3. Argentina	9. Soviet Union	14. Uruguay
4. Yugoslavia	10. China	15. Nigeria
5. Romania	11. Australia	16. Japan
6. Spain		

### Tour de France

## Indurain's challengers down to last resort — the mountains

LIEGE, Belgium (AP) — Monday may have been a rest day for Miguel Indurain. For his rivals, it was a day to face those gnawing doubts — can the Spaniard still be caught in the mountains. The last four years he couldn't.

Tony Rominger and Evgueni were supposed to be his big challengers this year, but they both trail Indurain by well over two minutes going into the first Alpine stage.

"I wanted to do better than Rominger and Berzin. It's done," said Indurain, brimming with confidence after winning Sunday's time trial and earning the yellow jersey for the overall lead.

Indurain is chasing a record fifth straight Tour de France win and Monday's flight from Liege to Geneva brought him face to face with

his next challenge — the snowcapped peaks with those steep hairpin roads where time lost is usually counted in minutes, not seconds.

The first test comes when the remaining 170 riders face three of the biggest mountains in between Le Grand-Bornand and the peak finish in La Plagne.

Wednesday has perhaps the toughest test of all, with two mountains scaling 2,000 metres (2,188 yards) before finishing in L'Alpe-D'huez, a mountain pass legendary in cycling lore.

That day the pack must scale three mountains "beyond category" as they are called in the tour's lingo, which rates climbs for steepness and toughness from 4 to 1 before designating a superlative rating to five tour mountains.

A master tactician, Indurain has never faded in the mountains and has often increased his lead over special climber leaders. It is an unpleasant prospect for the challengers.

If all-rounders like Berzin or Rominger trail by 2:20 and 2:30 minutes respectively, climbers like France's Richard Virenque and Italy's Claudio Chiapucci and Mariano Pantani trail by 8 minutes and more.

But Indurain is the first to admit anything can still happen before the tour reaches Paris on July 23.

"There will be surprises, look at all the other years," said Indurain.

The biggest one so far is second in the standings, 23 seconds behind the Spaniard, a Dane named Bjarne Riis. Totally unexpected, he

threatened Indurain up to the final few kilometres in the time trial.

At 31, he has long been a teammate rather than a team leader, and with Berzin designated leader in the Gewiss Team it might stir more trouble for Gewiss than for Indurain.

"I have shown I can be a leader of my team," Riis said.

"We can reach an agreement," said Berzin. "It's better to have two in the team to attack the yellow jersey."

Even though Riis is not specifically known as a climber, his fifth place overall in the 1993 tour proves he has staying power.

I've put my whole season on the tour this year," Riis said.

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**ANNONCE**  
Les Français résident ou de passage en Jordanie sont cordialement invités au buffet-dansant que donnera l'Ambassadeur de France à l'occasion de la Fête Nationale, le Vendredi 14 Juillet à partir de 21h 00, à la Résidence de France. Les personnes n'ayant pas reçu leur invitation sont priées de se présenter au Consulat, du dimanche au Jeudi, munis d'une pièce d'identité, afin de la retirer. Celle-ci sera demandée à l'entrée.

Une tenue décontractée — mais correcte — est recommandée pour cette occasion.

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### America's Cup yachts finally home

AUCKLAND (AFP) — The yachts that New Zealand used earlier this year to win the America's Cup in San Diego were welcomed here by around 200 boats and 5,000 people on Tuesday. The two Black Magic boats — NZL 32 and NZL 38 — arrived without keels and masts and riding on the deck of a container ship. Also on the French-owned ship Direct Kookaburra was One Australia, the boat Black Magic defeated in the challenger series. New Zealanders will only get a brief chance to see their winning boats as Team New Zealand plans to lock them in storage in order to prevent syndicates trying for the 2000 challenge from finding their racing secrets.

### Body of missing Olympian found

MADISON (AP) — The body of a man believed to be a missing Special Olympics athlete from Nepal was found Monday on the beach where he was presumed drowned four days ago. The body of the person believed to be Ramesh Mai, 21, was found about 1 p.m. at the Meg's Point Section of Hammonasset Beach State Park, a police dispatcher said. Mai disappeared Thursday afternoon while swimming in Long Island sound during a private outing to the beach with his countrymen. Rescuers had been searching the shore off the 2-mile (3.2 kilometers) beach nearly non-stop since he disappeared. Mai's family in Nepal said he had never been to the sea before coming to America, and had never learned to swim. Mai arrived in this country June 26 to participate in the special Olympics world games in New Haven. He was a member of the soccer team.

### Bull ponders Coventry move

WOLVERHAMPTON, England (AFP) — Steve Bull is considering an offer to play Premiership football with Coventry after Wolves accepted a 1.5 million pound (about \$2.5 million) bid for their 30-year-old cult hero on Monday. The former England striker has had talks with Sky Blues boss Ron Atkinson after first division Wolves manager Graham Taylor said the decision lies with Bull. But Atkinson knows how difficult it will be for Bull to leave the club to whom he has been steadfastly loyal over the years. Atkinson said: "I know it would be a wrench for Steve to leave Wolves but at least we have gone part of the way down the road to persuading him." Bull is due a testimonial after scoring 251 goals in nine years at Molineux during which time he has never played in the top flight. Taylor and Bull, who signed for Wolves from West Brom for 64,000 pounds in 1986, were locked in further talks on Monday.

### Walters set to leave Anfield

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — Winger Mark Walters was told on Monday he can leave Liverpool for a cut-price fee as part of an Anfield summer clear-out. The 31-year-old former Aston Villa winger, signed for 1.2 million pounds (about two million dollars) from Rangers four years ago, is likely to fetch around 250,000 pounds. First division Stoke, who had Walters on trial last season, are favourites to sign him. Liverpool chief executive Peter Robinson said: "We are looking to prune our staff if we can because we have got rather a large one." Manager Roy Evans has been busy in the close season transfer market buying Nottingham Forest leading scorer Stan Collymore and on a somewhat smaller financial scale Crewe's winger, youngster Francis Tierney.

### Nomo to start All-Star game

ARLINGTON (AFP) — Japanese pitcher Hideo Nomo, the sensation of the season, was named as starting pitcher of the National League in the All-Star game here on Tuesday. The 26-year-old Los Angeles Dodgers player has a 6-1 record, has won six consecutive starts with a 0.89 earned run average and is the first Dodger rookie to win a place in the All-Stars since Fernando Valenzuela. "This is a dream for me. I thought it was unreachable. It will be the biggest game of my life. I will cherish it for ever," said Nomo, who leads the National League in strikeouts. Randy Johnson of the Seattle Mariners was named as the American League starter. Center fielder Lemmy Dykstra of the Philadelphia Phillies will lead off for the National League with Kenny Lofton of the Cleveland Indians leading off for the American League. The rest of the National League team will be San Diego's Tony Gwynn, hitting second and playing right with Barry Bonds of San Francisco batting third, Los Angeles catcher Mike Piazza fourth, Atlanta first baseman Fred McGriff fifth and Cincinnati's Ron Gant, the designated hitter. Cincinnati shortstop Barry Larkin will bat seventh followed by Colorado third baseman Vinny Castilla and Houston second baseman Craig Biggio.

### Sampdoria bid farewell to Platt

GENOA (R) — England captain David Platt, leaving Sampdoria for Arsenal next season, was given an emotional farewell by the Italian on Monday. Sampdoria president Enrico Mantovani told the 29-year-old midfielder he was proud Platt had for the Genoese club and would have liked him to stay there longer. "Today is a sad day for me because I must say farewell to a player who in these last few years has won our complete respect and a lot of affection," he told a news conference. "I am proud David has been at Samp, I would have liked to keep him but it was not possible for so many reasons. I won't see David in the blue and white striped shirt again but the friendship and affection will always be there. I am sure that he, when he thinks of Genoa, will carry a piece of Sampdoria in his head and in his heart," Mantovani said.

### Sao Paulo final draws near

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Portuguese and Corinthians both won at the weekend to remain neck-and-neck in the Sao Paulo state championship. Portuguesa, unfancied at the start of the season, clinched a 2-1 victory away to Santos with an 87th-minute winner from Cao while Corinthians beat Uniao Sao Joao 2-0 with a penalty from Marcelinho and a powerful 25-metre strike by Tupazinho. Portuguese and Corinthians both have 10 points with two group two games to come in the second stage of the championship. They meet next weekend in a match which is likely to decide the finalist from the group.

### Grobbaelaar bail date July 24

LONDON (R) — British police on Tuesday extended by three days the date on which Zimbabwean-born goalkeeper Bruce Grobbaelaar, Wimbledon's Dutch player Hans Begers and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu are likely to hear whether charges will be laid over match-fixing allegations. The three plus Fashanu's partner Melissa Kassamapras and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim were released on bail after several hours of questioning last week. They were given police bail until July 21. Police have now extended that to July 24.

## Bruno offered Tyson fight as prize

LONDON (AFP) — Frank Bruno's prize for beating WBC heavyweight champion Oliver McCall at Wembley stadium on September 2 would be a mega return fight with Mike Tyson, says American promoter Don King.

However, British rival Lennox Lewis has threatened action if Tyson — No. 1 in the WBC rankings without so much as a winning comeback fight — stepped in front of their man Lewis won the right for a crack at his former title by stopping Lionel Butler in May's WBC final eliminator.

King could not be sure when Tyson would be ready to fight for a little in the first step of his campaign to reunify the world championships.

"I think Tyson could win the world little today," King said. "The plan was for Mike to challenge for a world title in his fourth fight, hid the decision rests solely with him. He wants to reunify the titles as soon as possible."

"Frank Bruno is going to be making his fourth challenge for the world crown. Usually, when you get three strikes you are out."

The winner of McCall-Bruno will fight Tyson, so Frank has a lot to gain.

"He had Tyson shook up in their first six years ago. Frank's got the opportunity. He's reaching for the clouds and the clouds, he may get."

Bruno's clash with McCall, postponed from July 22 because the champion from Chicago injured his left arm go-karting, will "easily" pull a crowd of 60,000 to Wembley stadium, reckons King's British partner Frank Warren.

Bruno, said: "The delay helps; I'm just thankful it's on. It may help to sell more tickets and give me a chance to get filler and stranger mentally. Everything helps."

## Flamengo debate costs of Romario

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — He returned to Brazil as a national hero. His featherlight touches and dramatic goals made Brazil a four-time World Cup champion and made Romario the FIFA player of the year.

That was last year.

Rio club Flamengo spent nearly \$5 million to get the mercurial 29-year-old striker from FC Barcelona on a loan fee earlier this year, and now its wondering if the cost will be even higher — the kind you can't put on a ledger sheet.

Romario has told club management he will continue playing only if he doesn't have to follow all the rules during pre-season training camp. He also wants a new coaching staff.

Manager Vanderlei Luxemburgo, who won the last two Brazilian national titles with Palmeiras of Sao Paulo, has grown tired of Romario — giving the Flamengo front office an ultimatum: either him or me.

The final decision belongs to Flamengo president Kleber Leite.

Rio's Jornal Dos Sports ran a headline that said Luxemburgo could be fired, since there was too much money tied up in Romario.

With the national championship less than a month away, Leite is hoping to get both parties to compromise.

None of the problems with Romario should have come as a surprise to Flamengo.

Barcelona manager Johan Cruyff was constantly irritated by Romario's prima donna attitudes and said he wasn't worth the trouble.

Despite angering Cruyff and club management, Romario returned late to Barcelona's training camp last summer after the World Cup, a situation that contributed to his transfer back to Brazil.

But two weeks ago, archrival Fluminense scored a last-minute goal to win the state title, and then Gremio beat Flamengo to eliminate it from the Brazil Cup.

"To be an idol on

Flamengo, goals are not enough," Flamengo's all-time scorer Zico told Rio Daily O Globo. "Flamengo's young players and fans need

to pull a crowd of 60,000 to Wembley stadium, reckons King's British partner Frank Warren.

Flamengo, one of Brazil's most popular clubs, was only too happy to greet him, expecting to celebrate its 100th year with another title.

With the hiring of Luxemburgo, Flamengo anticipated goals and titles.

Romario scored 26 goals to finish second in Rio state league scoring despite sitting out almost a month with injuries.



Brazil's Romario

minense game. Romario was seen in his car with his girlfriend remanding in front of the team's hotel.

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### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH  
© 1995 Tribune Media Services Inc.

MANAGE YOUR ASSETS WISELY

Open bidding: Queen of ♦  
South: ♦ 7 6 2  
North: ♦ 7 4 3  
West: ♦ A 6 2  
East: ♦ J 8 6 3  
♦ A 5 4  
Pass  
Opening lead: Queen of ♦  
Don't be satisfied with spotting the obvious way to tackle the play. Dig deep to see if there's a line that gives you an extra chance.  
South bid the hand very well. Over North's no-trump response South first probed for a 4-4 heart fit, then when North took a preference

of ♦ queen, South made an invitation.

With a super-maximum for the bidding to that point (two aces are not to be sneezed at, even though the jack of diamonds was of doubtful value), North had no diffi-

culty in raising to game.

There was no point in holding up the ace of clubs, so declarer won the

first trick to dummy. Faced with two sure losers in clubs, the fate of the hand hung on holding the heart honor to one. That could be accomplished either if the suit split 3-3 or if declarer could ruff the fourth heart on the board.

Declarer drew two rounds of

trumps, cashed the ace and king of hearts and exited with a heart. Unfortunately, East was able to lead

the last heart for the game-going trick.

another trump on winning the third heart and declarer was stranded with a second heart loser.

Declarer could have managed the

North-South fit better to cater to the actual lie of the cards.

At trick two declarer should lead a heart from dummy and duck it! Two defenders are helpless. After surrendering two clubs declarer regains the lead, draws two rounds of trumps and cashes the ace and king of hearts. West shows out, but also is out of trumps. Declarer can now ruff the last heart for the game-going trick.

cul

trick

ace

clubs

ace

## Sheikh Hamad reshuffles cabinet, succession rules

DUBAI (Agencies) — Qatar's new emir, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, who ousted his father in a palace coup last month, on Tuesday appointed a new government with himself as prime minister and altered the rules of succession.

In decrees published by the official Qatari News Agency, he took over the premiership that was held by his father Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, who is now believed living in exile in south of France.

Signalling no change in the policies of the small Gulf oil state, Sheikh Hamad, who as crown prince was largely responsible for appointing the previous cabinet three years ago, kept senior ministers such as those for foreign affairs, energy, and finance unchanged.

An army officer trained at Britain's elite Sandhurst Military Academy, Sheikh Hamad also retained his previous posts of defence minister and armed forces commander.

He appointed his brother, Sheikh Abdullah, who strongly supported the move against the previous emir in the bloodless palace coup of June 27, as deputy prime minister in addition to his post of interior minister.

But ending speculation that he might appoint his brother as crown prince, Sheikh Hamad altered the rules of succession to specifically say the succession goes to one of the sons of the emir. The previous rules said simply that it was hereditary.

The decree said that if the ruler had no sons, the crown prince would be chosen by the emir from among members of the Al Thani ruling family.

Sheikh Hamad introduced four faces to the new 18-man cabinet, three of them from outside the ruling family



interior, and municipal affairs.

Following is the government announced by Sheikh Hamad:

Crown prince, minister of defence and commander-in-chief of the armed forces — Sheikh Hamad.

First deputy prime minister and minister of interior — Sheikh Abdullah Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

Minister of state at the emiri court — Sheikh Hamad Ben Suhaim Al Thani.

Foreign minister — Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasim Ben Jabor Al Thani.

Minister of finance, economy and trade — Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

Minister of state — Sheikh Ahmad Bin Saleh Al Thani.

Minister of state for defence affairs, member of the cabinet and deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces — Sheikh Hamad Ben Abdullah Al Thani.

Minister of religious endowments and Islamic affairs — Sheikh Abdullah Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

Minister of municipal affairs and agriculture — Sheikh Ahmad Ben Hamad Al Thani.

Minister of state — Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalid Al Thani.

Minister of communications and transport — Abdullah Saleh Al Manei.

Minister of education — Abdul Azziz Abdullah Turki.

Minister of power and water — Ahmad Mohammad Ali Al Sebaie.

Minister of energy and industry — Abdullah Hamed Al Attiyah.

Minister of information and culture — Hamed Abdul Aziz Al Kawai.

Minister of public health — Al Saeed Al Khayareen.

Minister of justice — Najeib Mohammad Al Naemci.

Minister of state for foreign affairs — Ahmad Abdallah Al Mahmood.



ELECTIONS: Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker on Tuesday visits an election centre in the course of polling in

the first nationwide municipal elections in Jordan (Photo by Yousef Allan)

## Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian free trade, customs union suggested as most viable

### Experts' study looks closely at three economies

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

"By 2010, all barriers on Israeli exports to Jordan should be lifted and Jordan's external tariffs should be harmonised with those of Israel and the West Bank and Gaza," says the study, sponsored by the Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East (ISEPME) at the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University.

The study, conducted in the last two years, was produced jointly by the ISEPME, chaired by Leonard Hausman, the Jordan Technology Group headed by Jawad Anani, the Truman Institute for the Advance of Peace led by Moshe Ma'oz, and the Palestine Consultancy Group chaired by Sari Nusseibeh.

The study, entitled "Towards Free Trade in the Middle East: The Triad and Beyond," recommends that over a five-year period all trade barriers between Jordan and the Palestinian territories of West Bank and Gaza Strip be eliminated, all restrictions on Jordanian products entering Israel be removed and Jordan give Israel concessionary tariffs on selected goods.

The study group was chaired by Robert Lawrence of the Kennedy School of Government and included as members Tayseer Abdul Jaber and Mohammad Amerah of Jordan, Hisham Awartani of

Al Najah University in the West Bank, Hind Salman of Bethlehem University, Nadav Halevi and Ephraim Kleiman of Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

A short version of the findings of the study was presented and debated at a gathering in Amman on Tuesday attended by medium-level officials and businessmen and chaired by a panel that included Dr. Lawrence, Dr. Abdul Jaber, Dr. Awartani and Dr. Kleiman.

Dr. Hausman emphasised that "we do not represent any political group or government. The study has been prepared by independent experts closely familiar with the economic features of the region."

The main points that the study highlighted, and again emphasised by the panelists, included:

"The study is presenting an objective evaluation of the situation on the ground

in the region today and suggests that a Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian free trade accord leading to a customs union is an opportunity that is available.

"If you think Jordan is in an ideal position and does not need to change, then this study is not for you," said Dr. Lawrence.

"The study is not aimed at convincing Jordan alone of the wisdom in free trade and customs union. It is aimed as much at the Israelis, who have their own scepticism about entering such agreements," said Dr. Kleiman.

At the same time, the proposal for free trade and customs union serves the interest of Israel in a different way, he said. "We want happy neighbours," he said. "It is not because we want your happiness but your unhappiness will reflect badly on us."

(Continued on page 7)

## IAEA: No substance in Iraq nuclear claims

VIENNA (Agencies) — The United Nations nuclear safeguards agency said on Tuesday it had found no substance in reports that Iraq had been secretly working on technology to build a nuclear bomb.

A spokesman for the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said agency nuclear experts who studied the allegations had completed their investigation.

"Our conclusion is that there was no substance in the story," the spokesman said. "It is not considered to be an important issue any more."

The IAEA's probe into whether Iraq was attempting to use a theoretical computer-based model to design nuclear weapons was prompted by a report in the London Sunday Times in April.

The newspaper based its article on documents faxed to it by an Iraqi defector before he disappeared in Greece. Reports also appeared in Greek newspapers.

Energy traders have been keenly watching Iraq's progress in accounting for and destroying its weapons of mass destruction.

Until Baghdad has satisfied the United Nations that it has eradicated such arms, a ban on oil exports imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1990 will remain in force.

Iraqi oil exports were worth around \$18 billion a year before the Gulf war.

He said then that inconsis-

tencies in the documents led to a suspicion of forgery.

The discovery after the Gulf war that Baghdad had been developing nuclear weapons came as a blow to the IAEA which had conducted safeguards inspections in Iraq before 1990.

The Iraq case led the IAEA to conduct a review of its inspection procedures. The agency's board of governors backed tougher international checks at a meeting in June and hopes to win agreement for greater access to nuclear sites by the end of the year.

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